SAT SPECIAL
'Da Vinci Code', the movie: Pros and cons

ACROSS/A15
Up to 100 miners feared still trapped in Mt. Diwata, Compostela Valley

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Customs man nabbed in Japan with guns, ammo

NEWS/A2
Authorities probe mystery plane crash off Cagayan province

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

To keep bird flu virus away, don't kiss your pet parrot

HANOI, VIETNAM—FEEL like kissing your cat parrot? If you live in Hong Kong, don't. Ed shudder-inspiring multilimbed pet delight if you're in the vapor, it has probably been taken off the menu.

Court orders 'libelous' item deleted from PCIJ website

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE HONG KONG-BASED CENTER-ed digital media engineer Jonathan Tiongco and the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism would go all the way up to the Supreme Court.

Tiongco, who was tapped by Environment

Saturday, November 5, 2005 • 36 pages / vol. 20 / no. 230 www.inq7.net

Raped girl no sex worker

"SHE'S A PROSTITUTE asking US servicemen for money," Renel Tilburg, an American from New York shaking to Phoebe Lambrecht-Gabriela members as they march to the US Embassy to condemn the alleged rape of a 22-year-old Filipina by an American soldier at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone on Nov. 1.

College grad from Zambo was only visiting Subic

By Jillian Manonsco and Pearlie Rivera, PDI Central Luzon Desk and Nob Cuaresma

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—OFFICIALS OF THE Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority are hard put to provide details on the Filipino woman allegedly raped by US servicemen, but they are clear on one thing: She is not a sex worker.

The woman has refused to say more about the incident that occurred between the evening of Nov. 1 and early morning of Nov. 2, said retired Gen. Jose Calimlim, SBMA senior deputy for operations. "She will no longer talk about the incident. She declined to be interviewed, and insisted on silent drumming it," Calimlim said.

Early investigation has shown that the 22-year-old college graduate from Zamboanga came here with her stepsister to meet the latter's boyfriend, who was among those who took part in the RP-US counterterrorism exercises at Subic.

The victim and her stepsister were here for a visit. Until she volunteered. (They are not home anymore), Calimlim said.

He said that according to the results of the medical test conducted at the James Gordon Memorial Hospital in nearby Olongapo City the woman had a number of cuts in her genitals but no evidence of rape.

The woman had told investigators that her attacker had used a condom.

No apology for Babao, say Palace, AFP

NEITHER MALACAÑANG NOR THE ARMED Forces of the Philippines is prepared to grant ABS-CBN's demand for a public apology.

"I don't know what [Babao's] appropriate. There's nothing to apologize about," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters yesterday in a phone patch interview.

The military also said Brig. Gen. Dante Ga... AFP deputy chief of staff for intelligence and a former chief of staff, had no intentions of smearing his allegation that ABS-CBN broadcaster Julius Babao had bailed out to cut support Tyrone "Unreal" Santos is tipsy.

"Admiral Ilarga did not say anything malicious [against Babao]," AFP public information chief Col. Tristan Cano said.

According to Cano, Ilarga had merely related what help officers observed during Santos' bail hearing that Babao was seen "coaching" Santos during the proceedings.

Five senators on wage: Keep Congress out

By TJ Burgonio and Jeannie Aning

FIVE SENATORS FROM ACROSS the political spectrum and a powerful employers group joined hands yesterday in opposing a legislated wage increase, insisting that the wage issue was better left to regional boards.

"The issue to be settled, 'Do wages be pushed a bit of people out of work,'" Sen. Sergio Osmeña III was told on the heels of Senate Majority Manpupuk dictator's call for Congress to enact a "reasonable" minimum wage law to help workers are burdened by the expected VAT law.

"Too is good for those who have jobs, bad for those who will be laid off and those who are still looking for jobs," Osmeña said in an interview.

The Philippines Confederation of the Philippines and regional tripartite wage boards should decide if there should be another round of wage increases and by how much.

"The problem with Congress is that there's too much politics, too much give and take, whereas the regional wage board is a tripartite body. You have representatives from the government, employers and from the labor sector," Senate chief Nene Pimentel said.

Osmeña cautioned the administration against pushing for a legislated wage increase, saying it might lead to layoffs and shutdowns of businesses.

Osmeña also said that legislating a wage increase, unlike a populist move, would pose problems coming in the way-pay some of living in Metro Manila and the rest of the country.

The current minimum wage stands at P331 in the National Capital Region.

"It won't have the same effect, say in Manila and Baguio because the cause of living is those places are different," Osmeña said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. agreed.

APPEAL TO ENRILE

'Bequeath forests as heritage site'

By Blanche S. Rivera

IT CAN BE A MAJOR ECOLOGICAL BAT deground or an enduring legacy lasting more than a century, depending on the formula for a living—their abandoned their old way of life and vowed to avoid construction for the sake of the species that also make the island's forests their home.

This sacrifice and the foundation for the establishment of the 333,000-hectare Samar Island Natural Park (SINP), which comprises a third of the island's 1.24 million-ha area.

Samar's significance as an ecological asset has been thrown into focus by a recent government decision to open up an area covered by SINP to a logging firm of Danlo.

The SINP is a component of the $11.8-million Samar Island Biodiversity Project (SIBP) funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Development Program, US Agency for International Development, the Philippine government and nongovernment organizations.

"The project, dealing as it does with a very important biogeographical area in a country which is highly stressed environmentally, has very high global environmental benefits," GEF consultant Brent Bower said in his review of the project proposed in 1998.

He recommended the funding of the SINP to the GEF, an international funding agency that supports projects with global significance to biodiversity conservation.

"This is, in my mind, an almost perfect

THEY WHO HAVE NOTHING LOSE EVERYTHING
They don't even have electricity but a fire in Barangay Zuzung Plot 3, Navotas City at dawn on Friday and razed 100 shanties. Red Cross teacher volunteers are looking after the homeless, now housed at the Bangkulasi Elementary School (Story in Metro, Page A11).

9 Pinoys run for a cause in NY

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IT IS A FATHER'S (AND-ishes) dream—to participate in the prestigious (80) New York City Marathon.

Medical executives and running enthusiasts Enrique de Guzman and Enrique Salvador are among the Filipinos joining at least 35,000 other athletes in the 42-kilometer race on Sunday.

The New York City Marathon is an annual footrace run through the five boroughs of New York City. Next to the Boston Marathon, it is considered the premiere long-distance running event in the United States. The race has taken place every year since 1970 and attracts professional competitors and amateurs from all over the world.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2005

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

Customs man nabbed in Japan

3 guns, ammos seized by Narita airport police

By Nikko Dizon

A BUREAU OF CUSTOMS (BOC) EXAMINER WAS nabbed in Japan last week after three hand guns and 200 rounds of live ammunition were allegedly found in his possession, BOC Commissioner Alexander Arevalo said yesterday.

Arevalo identified the arrested customs officer as Gary Evans, who has been a customs examiner since 1996. He is now detained at the Narita Police Station at the Chiba Prefecture in Japan.

Airport authorities in Manila are still puzzled how Evans was able to smuggle the weapons and ammunition into the aircraft despite the strict security measures adopted at the airport.

Evans left Manila on Oct. 28 on board Philippine Airlines (PAL) flight PR 432 bound for Tokyo, Japan.

He was arrested upon arrival at the Narita International Airport Terminal on the same day at around 9 p.m. for illegal possession and transport of firearms and ammunition.

Japanese Customs examiners found one .22 caliber semi-automatic pistol, two .38 caliber revolvers, and 200 pieces of live ammunition in Evans's possession.

The handguns were concealed in the inner lining of a jacket in Evans's leather jacket, while 100 pieces of ammunition were hidden in the back pockets of his pants. The other 100 pieces of ammunition were found in Evans's hand-carried luggage.

In a press conference yesterday Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) spokesman Abel (left) Bitg. Hen. Angel Maralit Jr. admitted that the incident was a blow to the airport authority's security measures.

"We accept the arrest by Japan as violation, despite the all the security measures we have been implementing. We are now investigating how he was able to reach the firearms inside the aircraft, and why he did not pass through the X-ray," Arevalo said.

He added that the Main has initiated corrective measures to prevent a similar incident.

Arevalo surmised that Evans must have taken advantage of the State and Customs personnel's "familiarity" with him.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) representatives in Manila have been briefed on Evans's case, he added.

The TSA constantly reviews the security measures at international airports following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the US.

The rigid security at international airports has been questioned since the unresolved terrorism became a global concern.

Arevalo acknowledged that Main has been implementing strict security measures and said what happened now is "very unfortunate incident."

"We have to admit that he (Evans) was able to take advantage of his position, of the opportunities, and possibly take advantage of the loopholes in the system," Arevalo said.

Investigation showed that Evans even reported for work at the Main Terminal 2, where he is assigned, before he left for Japan.

Arevalo said that Evans was wearing his Customs uniform when he boarded the plane but changed into civilian clothes while on board the aircraft.

"I don't think that an ordinary passenger could have done this. It is very unfortunate that a BOC personnel at the Main who is supposed to protect the Philippine border is the one who violated this. It is a very unfortunate incident. I'd like to assure you that (Main) general manager (Alfonso) Cusi has immediately alerted everyone at the Main to take appropriate action," he said.

Evans had a routine visa to Japan but did not have an approved travel authority, a requirement for traveling government employees, Arevalo said.

The BOC chief added that he has already coordinated with Philippine Ambassador to Japan, Domingo Siazon Jr., for assistance, and received assurances from the Japanese Customs chief that Evans's rights would be respected.

Arevalo added that the BOC will arrange for all the needed legal and diplomatic support for Evans, even as he is likely to face administrative charges here in Manila.

"There are ongoing operations right now and both the Philippine and Japanese authorities required to keep some information to themselves in the meantime," Arevalo said, in response to questions on why Evans brought ammunition for firearms.

"Let me assure you that we have identified with the Japanese customs those involved directly in the Manila and Japan side," Arevalo added.

Following Evans's arrest, Main Customs collector Ricardo Bolanos said the BOC will conduct a review of Customs personnel deployed at the Main complex.

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Authorities probe mystery plane crash off Cagayan

AUTHORITIES ARE VERIFYING REPORTS that a light plane crashed in the sea off Cagayan province Thursday night after residents in the area claimed seeing smoke coming from the rear of the aircraft's tail.

"We are still confirming the report because as of now we haven't received any reports of a missing aircraft," the Transportation Office chief Nilo Abiva said in a phone interview.

But both the AFP and the Philippine Air Force (PAF) said that all general aviation and military aircraft were accounted for.

Abiva said that residents of Ballesteros, Sta. Cruz, Cagayan claimed to have seen a low flying aircraft early Thursday night.

The police, quoting residents, said the plane, believed to be a two-seater Cessna, was coming over the village when it suddenly hit treetops and then plunged into the sea.

The aircraft supposedly disappeared and the tail-wing wreckage was what caught the eyes of the residents, Abiva said.

Search-and-rescue operations, however, were hampered by bad weather, Abiva added.

The AFP in Cagayan said owners of private planes claimed their aircraft were all accounted for.

An Army spokesman Lt. Col. Bartolome Baclig also said that no military plane was missing. "And all our aircraft are accounted for," he said.

Nevertheless, Abiva and Baclig said that search and rescue teams will continue to scour the area to verify the report. Nikko Dizon and Concepcion Calilan, PDI trainees

NO RP PATENT

RP may manufacture medicine vs bird flu

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PHILIPPINES MAY BE ABLE to produce Tamiflu, the anti-viral drug believed to be effective against avian flu, without fear of violating any international property rights.

According to Roberto Baglani, patent, chief of the Philippine International Trading Corp., Tamiflu (oseltamivir), which a manufactured by the Swiss-based Roche pharmaceutical company, has no local patents.

This means that any domestic drug firm can produce it without violating legal restrictions in its manufacture. Baglani said.

Tamiflu is widely believed to be the most efficient medicine to deal with a possible avian flu outbreak in the event that the virus mutates into a strain capable of transferring from one human to another.

Pagkatapos said local companies like Unilab could produce Tamiflu in three months upon the approval of the Department of Health. He said the raw materials could be easily imported from India.

"The system is set. In case we need to produce it, we will be able to do it," said Pagkatapos.

PITC is the lead implementing agency of the government's special oil importation of essential drugs.

Pagkatapos said that so far there was no need to go into local production of Tamiflu as the three known avian flu outbreaks in

The DOH's order of 30,000 capsules or 91.7 million more of the drug, from Roche is set to arrive in January.

In the meantime, the Bureau of Animal Industry said that the best strategy against bird flu was still to prevent the virus from entering the Philippines.

"This strategy forms Stage 1 of the four-pronged measures set up by our inter-agency task force involving the agriculture, tourism, local government and health departments.

With the country still free of the virus that has killed at least 62 in Asia, Cariaga said the government was STRICTLY monitoring the entry of poultry products. BAI director Dorina Cariaga said at the same forum.

Since the outbreak of the disease in several Asian countries, he said the government has seized and destroyed three tons of poultry meat.

An average of 150 kgs to 200 kgs of meat, usually from Eastern and Shanghai in China, are confiscated from airline passengers every two months, he said.

Cariaga also advised the public to keep their livestock away from areas where migratory birds converge during the months of October to February.

The Philippine National Red Cross has planned to hold drills on an "ready mode" in anticipation of an avian flu outbreak.

PNRC chair Jun. Richard Gordon has ordered all Red Cross chapters to immediately coordinate and monitor the "disaster core disseminators" who had undergone public health and disaster response training during the SARS scare three years ago.

"We have to be ready for the imminent threat of pandemic in Southeast Asia related to the avian flu," Gordon said in a statement.

The PNRC will share disseminating information and education materials about the disease to schools and health centers nationwide.

Aside the preventive education has already been integrated in all Red Cross training courses, said PNRC executive Ric Lotilla. With a report from Jocelyn R. Uy

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To keep bird flu . . .

From page A1

These precautions are some of the more unusual pronouncements made by officials in Asian nations as they feel the fears spread faster than the virus itself.

In the Philippines, officials announced that all workers from bird flu-affected countries coming to Manila for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games this month will be banned from visiting extinct volcano and poultry farms—just in case this was on their itinerary. Death of-ficials have expressed concern that the virus could be carried into the archipelago by tourists of the travelers' clothing or shoes.

In addition, visitors would be banned this year from going to Sagada's cave-ing, migratory birds at night using nets, after uncovering that birds with bamboo in small flies.

"Bird owners should not kiss their pets," Hong Kong's Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department said in a statement outlining measures people should take when handling their feathered friends.

On Tuesday, Vietnam banned the sale of duck blood pudding—a specialty especially of all chicken—a way it too much of a tradition to give up, although it's been blamed for passing bird flu to people.

"I will use it but every day, but three or four times a week," said a restaurant owner in Pham Ngu Minh. He told up to 300 bowls of the cold, congealed treat every day before cases warnings scared away some re-turners.

Made from the raw blood of freshly slaughtered ducks or goose and mixed with boiled organs, the dish was linked to at least one bird flu death last year.

But Vietnam, which has been banned hit by the SARS virus with more than 40 deaths, has also offered citizens and tourists a bit of comfort: Anyone who falls sick because of the virus will be covered in hospitals—free of charge.

China's largest city, Shanghai, also announced strict new policies to try to remain bird flu-free.

Sterilization

Shanghai officials said they would disinfect the shoe soles of all travelers arriving by land, sea or air, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. The report was unclear about how the sterilization duty would be done or how authorities planned to enforce such a measure on the millions of people entering the city by road each day.

Xinhua said Shanghai had banned for spreading bird flu across Asia and into Europe. The disease has ravaged Asian poultry stocks and killed at least 62 people in Southeast Asia. Health experts fear the virus may soon mutate into a form which could easily spread from person to person, possibly igniting a global outbreak that could kill millions. So far, most human cases have been traced to having had contact with birds.

Many Asian countries have declared a ban on poultry imports from affected countries. They have also increased their surveillance, including at airports, putting guys at airports for fever or other flu-like symptoms.

Shoot it down

Some, like New Zealand, have even ordered pilots to send off-course birds flying human-to-human transmission is reported.

Last Friday, Hong Kong lawmaker Tommy Cheung proposed a solution to the city's problem of migrating bird flu altogether. "Perhaps what we should do is give each person a gun, and when we see a migrant bird, we can just shoot it down, so doing flying would be a much safer place."—AP

Bequeath Samar as heritage site

From page A1

ENABLE. The heart of the matter

the international funding agencies.

She criticized the DENR's recent decision allowing a logging firm of Emilio to cut trees in a 55,719-ha area covered by the ISNP, a protected area.

San Jose Timber Corp. is TLA area can only fell in the ISNP. It was given the go-signal to operate provision now, an area that lists all kinds of activities, even no-cutting to ensure protection for natural growth trees, environmentalists contend.

Church and environment groups have joined forces in opposing the resumption of logging operations, saying this would threaten the water supply on the whole island and make the people vulnerable to massive flooding.

Environment Secretary Michael T. Defensor signed the order upholding SITCS TLA on Aug. 14. He also exercised the TLA's effectivity by another 25 years in compensation for the revenues lost by Emilio's firm since the logging moratorium in 1989.

"They owe it from a very narrow perspective," said Gonzales, who is now working for another institution.

Fullout threat

"The TLA has been superseded by other events, the proclamation of the area as a forest reserve in 1996, the agreement between the UNEP and the Philippine government and the proclamation of the UNEP," she said.

The UNEP-GEF is inclined to pull out funding for the second phase of the project if logging operations resume as authorized by the DENR, sources have said.

"Samar is one of the biggest GEF projects in the country to would be a black spot for the Philippines if funding is pulled out," Gonzales said.

The second phase of the NRM, which would run from December 2007 to 2009, entails the establishment of the park center and administrative office, the strengthening of local governments capabilities in managing the nature park and the inclusion of conservation in future development projects.

Gonzales said the 200,000 households in the 33 municipalities covering the ISNP had stopped logging and other activities in livelihood activities to ensure the forest regrowth.

The previously feared dependent communities have opened up to eco-tourism and harvesting of non-timber forest products to augment themselves.

All that is at heritage of ecological and wealth finally can bequeath to his people, Gonzales said.

Philippine eagle

Samar has also been named as one of the nine endemic bird areas in the Philippines.

The Philippine eagle was first discovered in the forests of Samar, Samar in 1896. Experts have said that the island, which has some 300,000 ha of unfragmented lowland forests, would have the highest population of the endangered Philippine eagle in the country.

The Philippine eagle, however, has a very low birth rate. Only one egg is incubated every two years.

The Samaran johnsoni, the largest bat in the world, now is Samar's claim to as well.

"The big danger is the loss of biodiversity values that forests are reached. These species could be completely lost if the forests go," Gonzales, project coordinator of the preparatory phase of ISNP, said in an interview.

Strictly protected area

Gonzales headed the team from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources that spent three years—1998 to 2000—working on the proposal that was eventually approved by

Five senators on wage: Keep Congress out

From page A1

GMA seeks middle ground on wage issue

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-AR-ROYO yesterday called on Congress, management groups and labor unions to sit down with the government in determining the "middle ground on the legislated wage hike."

"A quadripartite dialog is in order and must consider the full range of social, economic and political implications," Mr. Arroyo said in a statement, a day after calling on the legislature to enact a nonindexable minimum wage law. "We need to maintain our economic gains while engaging full cohesion and political stability."

Mr. Arroyo said that while strengthening the economy through bigger tax revenues was the best cure for of poverty, "we must consider those suffering moment to ease the pain."

"Let us have a strong nation conquered by compassion so that the less fortunate can weather these tough times in the knowledge that the spirit of sacrifice is shared by all sectors."

Senator also said that many employers could not afford new salary increases, pointing out that salary raises called for by the regional boards in June and July had not yet been fully implemented.

Labor Secretary Patricia Santos said wage-fixing was battering of interests and was not just a political but also an economic issue.

"We know that members of the Congress are elected by the people, so they probably have more wisdom than the wage boards put together. They should be able to take a look at this issue in terms of the larger

Anti-business

"If done to obviate the impact of SIT, it is anti-business and anti-investment. This is because as a practical matter, the net effect is that private business is the one who will fund the VAT collection," he added.

"So in addition to higher operating expense because of the SIT on fuel and electricity, there will be additional expenses from another labor. Wonder got squeezed and there's no reason to say in business."

Senator said fixing the wage increase was better left to wage boards as they were attuned to the economic conditions in every region.

Let people get jobs first

"If living wage is dependent on regional circumstances, which the executive in the better suited to address," Sen. Richard Gordon said. Bill Senate Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development.

Instead of asking Congress to pass a wage bill, the government should create an environment conducive to investments and trade, and create employment opportunities, Gordon said.

"Let's do a China, Russia, Vietnam and Thailand. Let's get our people employed first," he said.

Sen. Ralph Recto said: "We've done our part. Congress created the regional wage boards to do just that. They have to do their job."

Employers' view

Joseph Sorbon said regional wage boards had respect to do their mandate. If there really were "hu-perverting events" to remove another increase.

He said that 99.6 percent of employers in the country were in small-scale industries and they would be the most affected by pay increases.

Senator also said that many employers could not afford new salary increases, pointing out that salary raises called for by the regional boards in June and July had not yet been fully implemented.

Labor Secretary Patricia Santos said wage-fixing was battering of interests and was not just a political but also an economic issue.

"We know that members of the Congress are elected by the people, so they probably have more wisdom than the wage boards put together. They should be able to take a look at this issue in terms of the larger

No deal

Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran challenged Ms Arroyo to prove that she was not making "hollow promises" when she urged Congress to enact a wage increase.

Beltran added: "She should instruct all administration Congressmen to affix their signatures to the wage hike bill and approve the measure first thing on Nov. 7 when session in Congress resumes."

Palace denial

Malacañang denied reports that it had struck a deal with left-leaning lawmakers under which it would not implement a legislated wage hike in exchange for their support for the SIT law.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said: "How can we deal with them when we all know that every time they make a move or they take a position, they always want what is not good for the government no matter who is in charge?" With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

Court orders 'libelous' item deleted from PCIJ website

From page A1

Secretary Michael T. Defensor to examine the authenticity of the "Hello Garci" tapes, but have granted subsequent relief in that complaint against the PCIJ by a lower court.

Quezon City Judge Ralph Lee on Thursday directed the PCIJ to "remove, delete or block" an article alleged to be damaging to the reputation of Jonathan Tiongco on the PCIJ website, www.pcij.org.

PCIJ editor Sheila Coronel yesterday said she would take the issue to the Supreme Court.

"This is a press freedom issue. The TRO is contrary to our constitutional right. We stand by our story. We have documents to prove it," she said.

Judge Lee made it clear that the temporary restraining order, to take effect until Nov. 20, should not be "construed so as to

dismiss of this Court's sentences or inclination" on the petition for preliminary injunction filed by Tiongco's wife, Rona.

The 'report'

Rona Tiongco had gone to the lower court with a complaint against a PCIJ article that she said portrayed her husband as "a rapacious, a serial murderer, a gun-toting boyfriend and a vote stealer."

The article, titled "Mike Defensor's expert" and written by Veda Inciong-Rimon, was posted on the PCIJ website on Aug. 12, the same day the Defensor presented Tiongco to a press conference in which the sound engineer questioned the authenticity of the "Hello Garci" tapes, saying that two tracks of the recordings had been tampered with.

Rona Tiongco said she found "rewriting" a quote from a police

9 Pinoys run for a cause in New York City

From page A1

De Ocampo and Pajaujo and the nine Filipino runners based here and in the United States form the Gilas team—one of the biggest contingents of Filipinos in the history of the New York marathon.

Gilas, which stands for Growing Up Internet Literacy and Access for Students, is a private sector-led movement launched in January this year to provide Internet connection to public schools nationwide. The organization hopes to improve their education and expose them to opportunities provided by the technology.

To raise P5M

Avri Dalmacio of Gilas said they hoped to raise P5 million from pledges of support to the runners and the cause. The runners rallied on the public to make their participation more meaningful by making a donation for every mile they run.

If all nine Gilas runners finish the race, they will have accrued a combined total of 236 miles or 379 km.

Funds are already coming in from individuals and corporations.

De Ocampo and Pajaujo are not the only ones here always participate. This is the first for the Gilas, they are enthusiastic about using it to raise funds and awareness for Gilas.

"It's a big honor to be able to put some social significance to what I am doing," said 38-year-old De Ocampo, an executive at Bloomberg and Co. Inc., "and I really feel that the public school system should be improved."

"I believe in the cause (Gilas) very much," added Pajaujo, 33, an executive of Ayala Land Inc., "it will benefit an overwhelmingly if the technology is made available to as many as possible."

Teammates

The others in the team are Antonio Padilla IV, a partner in a Manila-based law firm; Nona Torres, head of treasury relations of Ayala Corp.; Eduardo Catalan, investment banker based in New York; Juan Miguel Escalar, head of sales at ING Bank Manila; Ocnia Mayuga, former teacher taking up a master's degree at Columbia University; Leonardo de Ocampo, Columbia graduate

CASE TRANSFERRED TO PASAY CITY

Dos Palmas suspect to be presented Monday

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE KITCHEN HELPER ALLEGED TO have been involved in the kidnappings at the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan in 2001 has yet to be presented in court a week after he was arrested in Baguio City.

According to Director Vidal Querol, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, the police decided not to push through with the plan to fly Amil Salih—identified by a police informer as the "Abu Tagalog" involved in the kidnappings—to Isabela, Basilan where the case was supposed to be heard.

He said Isabela town officials had informed the Manila police that the cases against the Abu Sayyaf suspects in the Dos Palmas kidnapping had been transferred to Pasay City.

Querol said Salih would be presented to the Justice Department officials on Monday.

Salih, who is being detained at Camp Bagong Diwa headquarters of the NCRPO, was supposed to have been flown to Basilan last Thursday.

Querol said his office has been careful not to violate the rights of Salih, who was arrested last Saturday in Baguio City based on an arrest warrant issued by the Basilan court.

"It was just that my men did not know that the case had been transferred (from Basilan to Pasay City)," he said.

Querol explained that the information about the transfer of the case was received late.

"My men told me they were making last-minute preparations. They called Isabela to coordinate their arrival there because they had wanted somebody to finish them," he said.

He said the three-day holiday this week may have caused the delay. Government offices were closed on Monday, Tuesday and Friday.

Querol said his men also had to check with the Department of Justice offices in Manila to find out which Pasay City court was trying the kidnap case.

A police informer had pointed to Salih as the "Abu Tagalog" involved in the Dos Palmas kidnappings.

According to Querol, he also signed his name as "Amil Salih Pandasan alias Abu Tagalog" when he was booked.

An intelligence officer in Camp Crame has claimed, however, that Salih had no criminal record and was most likely not the "Abu Tagalog" tagged in the kidnappings.

He said the arrest warrant only listed the alias "Abu Tagalog," which he said was a "generic alias."

"The police are looking for two more Abu Sayyaf members with this alias, but none of them is Salih," said the officer who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Until his arrest, Salih had not been linked to any terrorist or kidnap group, the officer said.

He said the police had in fact arrested an "Abu Tagalog" in October 2002. Mark Ormebathall, tagged as an Abu Sayyaf member and the "Abu Tagalog" linked to the Dos Palmas kidnap case, is being held with other alleged Abu Sayyaf members in a Metro Manila jail.

Shelpie Alabilah, a Baguio-based television activist, said Salih, a native of Basilan, was a volunteer kitchen helper at the Iqbal Ahmadiff Educational Center, the largest Islamic institute in Northern Luzon.

He has been living in Baguio since 1997, he added.

Salih was arrested along with a man identified only as Mario, a plumber at the same Islamic school.

LEAVE the Visiting Forces Agreement and prevent the alleged US servicemen rapists are the facilities of Gabriela and other militant groups at their protest rally on Friday

Raped girl not a sex worker

In her statement to reporters, Ms Arroyo said she was "actually scandalized by an unfounded accusation." She did not say the suspects stripped her.

The woman is "still in a state of shock," according to her sister Mary Anne Daza, who met Ms Arroyo on Friday but refused to be interviewed.

Now in Manila

A complaint was filed against the Americans at the Olongapo City prosecutor's office on Thursday.

They are now in Manila and awaiting developments of the case, Lithuania said.

But US press attaché Matthew Donnelvay said only five American servicemen—not six, as the lawyer had reported—were tagged in the alleged rape and that handed by the US Embassy to Olongapo authorities.

He said the embassy was doing its job with the motto "very serious," considering that US troops headed for Iraq go through it.

Donnelvay said that as of yesterday, authorities had not received a formal notification from the Philippine government regarding the case.

Maintaining does not see the alleged rape as causing a ripple in RP-US relations, as long as the provisions of the Visiting Forces Agreement are observed.

"From my end, I can see that for as long as everyone understands that the case is covered by the VFA, I don't see any problem," Ambassador Secretary Edmundo Bustos said in a teleconference with reporters.

He quoted President Macapagal-Arroyo as saying that "justice will be served to the fullest extent" with our procedures and our laws."

DFA at frontline

But Maintaining does not see the need for hands-on action, Bustos said.

"This is a matter that is very well covered by the provisions of the VFA, and we are letting the prosecutors do their work," Bustos said in a text message. "It will be best handled [at] the level of the [DFA] and/or the US Embassy."

Bustos also declined to state whether the alleged participation of the US servicemen should be treated even in Philippine authorities during their trial.

"The DFA will be the one dealing on the matter," he said.

Under Secretary Raul Rosales said the Philippines might seek custody of the US servicemen until his 20-days.

But he said future developments depended on what would happen in talks between officials of the two countries. Echoing Donnelvay, he said there was no problem for a matter to be addressed by the DFA.

"Under the VFA, are basically native subjects to the US except in cases which are of such importance to our country, in which case we must handle the issues. Once and request. Everybody knows a period of 20 days. At this point, it is still too early to say this because it is now the subject of a dialogue between the RP and

THE LEAGUE OF FILIPINO STUDENTS march to the US Embassy on Friday denouncing the alleged gang rape of a Filipino woman by Subic bay US servicemen

AFP/JOEY GOMEZ

[illegible] agreement, cooperation, it will be for the interest of both nations to have mutual respect for the implementation of the VFA," he added.

Bustos co-chairs the bilateral oversight committee on the VFA with Sen Miriam Defensor-Santiago and two congressmen.

The senator, however, noted that as far the United States was shifting by the provisions of the VFA, which governs the conduct of US military personnel in the country, among others—in cases involving with the alleged rape.

"Since this is still in the investigation stage, they might have the US Embassy to take custody of and be responsible for the American servicemen," he said, adding:

"This is a case that the lawyer case will be made available for the conduct of the investigation and trial proceedings, if the case progresses to the point of trial."

If anything, said Bustos, who chairs the Senate committee on national defense and security, the alleged rape would not be the first to hold the presidential oversight committee and the legislative oversight committee in the implementation of the great importance.

He said it was the job of the two committees to ensure that the Philippines would not be "too accusatorial" taken advantage of.

The presidential oversight committee is composed by Executive Secretary Rolando and Undersecretary Arsenio Cruz.

'It betokens'

Said Sen Richard Gordon, a member of the oversight committee on the VFA, in an interview: "These things will happen when you have military officers. It happened in Okinawa, it happened here years ago. But when it happens to us [it is] different. It betokens the principle upon which the VFA was made.

"It betokens the lack of mutual cooperation for security," he added, stressing that the VFA was aimed at promoting the common security interests of both countries as well as strengthening security in the Asia-Pacific region.

But Akbayan Rep. Loretta Rosales said: "The US [will] definitely investigate its own troops and should be tried in the Philippines. We must remind our government to be very careful in dealing with this issue. We must not compromise our sovereignty."

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo challenged the Arroyo administration to "immediately pressure the US military to the fullest extent of Philippine laws."

"Ms Arroyo should order Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo to readily take jurisdiction of the incident and the justice department to conduct a summary investigation and file the appropriate charges before a regional trial court to prevent the accused's flight from justice," Ocampo said in a press statement.

Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza, chairperson of the House foreign affairs committee, said the VFA should be reviewed and given "more teeth" to deter visiting US servicemen from committing crimes in the country.

Bataan Rep. Edwin Ongsiako, chair of the House committee on basic conversion and development, urged the US government to appoint acting its difference to reasonably citizen the soldiers' acquittal.

"This is a matter of applying the law and giving justice to the victim," Up said. "There is no disagreement between the country and the US. We appeal to the diplomat nations not to use the issue to instigate conflict between the Philippine and US governments."

Warning

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon warned that the Senate would consider abrogating the VFA if the United States would not commit to provide security assurance.

"If there is an urgent bringing by the Americans of the provisions of the VFA, the Senate would in the end consider abrogating the VFA so the same manner that is abrogated the Military Bases agreement in 1991," he said in an interview.

"Since there is an interest in

Terror suspect's lawyer hits DOJ on rebellion raps

By Leila A. del Puerto

THE LAWYER OF TAISEER "Taiseer" Jamiro yesterday said a non-"absurd" for the Department of Justice to charge his client with rebellion in the late days.

"Why only now?" said lawyer Severiano Maralilan. "They have arrested him before and [subjected him to the discovery of explosives in Quezon City]. Why didn't they file charges of illegal possession of explosives against him then? This is absurd."

"Why would the justice secretary [Raul Gonzalez] tolerate things like this?" he said.

Maralilan pointed out that Jamiro was arrested on March 21 on the strength of an arrest warrant for illegal possession of firearms and explosives in Taytay and Pangasinan.

On March 28, military operatives raided an apartment in Quezon City and seized 600 kilos of explosives—supposedly stored there by Jamiro's alleged cohorts. They said Jamiro owned and had been to the apartment.

The DOJ filed rebellion charges on Thursday against Jamiro Satrullah Ismilen Bitoon (Jamiro), Satrullah's alleged cousin of the Rajah Solaiman Movement, also Sayed Ismilen Khadaffy Ismilen, and 18 others.

Ahmad Santos was arrested in Zamboanga City last week.

Amused, then enraged

Maralilan said he was initially amused to learn of the rebellion charge, but was eventually enraged.

Rebellion is a nonbailable offense, which means that if Jamiro is convicted, he will not be allowed to post bail.

Maralilan also took issue with how the military had been preparing its case as a "homicide" even before the charges against him can be proven.

On Thursday, the military claimed that Jamiro was planning bomb attacks in Metro Manila. Quoting reports from Jolo, Tiwi Bunga, Armed Forces deputy chief of staff for intelligence (J-2), said Jamiro had been "contacting his commanders and coconspirators in Metro Manila."

'What if they shoot him?'

Maralilan feared the reminder that under Philippine law, no accused was pronounced innocent until proven guilty.

"The mindset [the military wants the public to have] is that he is a terrorist. What if they are shot him just like that?" the lawyer said.

He lamented that Jamiro had not jumped bail and had been attending his hearings.

In fact, Maralilan said, Jamiro was present at the hearing in Tacurong and had gone back to his hotel overnight saying the hearing had been aborted because the prosecutor was not around.

Maralilan also pointed out that Jamiro bail was not P200,000 but only around P40,000.

The court was convinced to lower the bail after being told that the accused was unemployed.

Jamiro was released on April 20 and for four weeks after the military arrested him in Cubao, Quezon City.

No apology for Babao, say Palace, AFP

(From page A1)

that the P200,000 bail money was suddenly produced after a two-minute break after Jamiro's lawyer earlier pleaded for a 4-day recess in the bail, and that Jamiro was taken away from detention to Camp Aguinaldo in an ARI-CRO car.

"There's no need for an apology because the [Babao] was not instigated and there's nothing to support [Jamiro and Ebrahim] told a the truth," Eano said.

Bunga refused to take calls yesterday. The hotlined, Brig. Gen. Ricolo Quevedo, did not answer calls or his cell phone.

'Troubled enough'

ARI-CRO issued a statement on Thursday demanding a public apology from the Palace and the [only for supposedly instigating Jamiro's rebellion].

It was President Macapagal-Arroyo herself who made public the baby report on Babao in a television interview with Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo.

Romulo said that based on their interviews with the media, [only officials had been "troubled enough to say [the information on Babao was contained in] intelligence reports."

Romulo said was actually [Angas kita [with] Sarmiento] assisted anything," Romulo said. "They were just talking about what the Senate Blues that have been gathered."

Romulo expressed certainty that Babao would be able to show himself ARI-CRO had not it was conducting an inquiry into the matter.

Asked whether the network was out of line in demanding an apology, Romulo replied: "I do not want to say out of line," anybody is entitled to their opinion."

Citing the facts

In a news conference on Wednesday, Bunga admitted that all the military had against Babao "documented evidence" was those."

"We are not saying that Babao Babao categorically denied the had. But we will cite to you the facts regarding the circumstances by which his name was implicated," Bunga had said in the [illegible].

But the previous week, Bunga was categorical about Babao's linkage of Ozzed Santos, alleged second in command of the so-called Rajah Solaiman Movement (RSM) whom the military categorizes to have planned to bomb Metro Manila during the Holy Week.

On Oct. 27, the day the military presented Mohaiyo "Mohamad" Ibanez, RSM leader and Bunga's older brother, to the President and the media, Bunga said Ibanez had been misidentified as he was released on April 26.

"The brother [Ibanez] is a member of the RSM but he was out on bail and it was from a precondition that the brothers gave bail bail to help this person out," Bunga had said.

But he did not identify the "reliable person(s)" who dropped the name.

The following week, quoting the body report, Mr. Arroyo told Tulfo that Babao had paid for Santos' bail.

Just observation

Asked if Bunga was liable for giving the President the impression that Babao had provided the financing Ebrahim and Bunga's report merely stated the body's observations and did not make the connection.

"That's the mood of the affair the things that come up are products of circumstantial evidence. We didn't make the connections, we just give the circumstances, the facts," Eano said.

Asked if it was Mr. Arroyo who had jumped to the wrong conclusion, he said: "Even the President didn't say anything malicious. She said it was also reaching that a member of the media was coaching a treasonist suspect and was allowing a terrorist suspect to talk to an ARI-CRO one."

Corroborating on the conversation, Dindo Rasos, secretary general of the militant farmers group Bayanang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, said the Daily had been connecting one Mindanao [illegible].

"Is this really the intelligence service talking? They're wasting precious [illegible] money," he said. Dona J. Bonalaygan and Christine O. Avendaño

POLICE TIPS TO MOTORISTS

How to tell a fake checkpoint

By Luige B. del Puerto

WITH ONE HANDGRIP ON THE RIDE, how do you tell that the checkpoint ahead of you is legitimate one, manned by real police officers and not robbers?

The first and clearest sign of legitimacy, according to the police manual on operational procedures, is the use of official and marked police vehicles and adequate lighting.

"If unmarked vehicles are used, you should be suspicious and should try to circumvent/avoid/run the situation," says Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, Philippine National Police spokesperson.

The manual says a legitimate checkpoint has these following characteristics:

• The area is properly lighted, and legible and clear signs are exhibited.

• Officers manning the checkpoint wear proper uniforms at all times, with their ID cards and nameplates readily visible.

• The checkpoint is led by an officer with the rank of police inspector or above.

Also in the midst of the police's uniform, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) officers wear a black uniform, soldiers wear camouflage fatigues. In all cases, their names and ranks are prominent on their breast plates and shoulders.

Bataoil urges motorists to be always alert and aware always. There is something wrong, he says, when the uniforms do not match, say one guy wears a blue police uniform on his upper garment, and a military camouflage or his lower garment.

He also advises motorists to ask for the highest-ranking officer when flagged down.

"Searches made at check or checkpoints shall be limited to visual search and neither the vehicle nor the occupants shall be subjected to physical search," the manual says. "No extensive search may be allowed only if the officers conducting the search have probable cause to believe that they would find evidence pertaining to the commission of a crime in the vehicle to be searched, and there is no sufficient time to secure a valid warrant."

Searches, seizures or arrests, the manual adds, must be done visibly and "with due respect to the innocent passersby, commuters or bystanders." Extortion and harassment of motorists or persons by are strictly prohibited.

Police have "probable cause" to believe that a car has been used in a crime if the vehicle matches the description of the getaway car used in a bank robbery or some other crime, according to Bataoil.

If one suspects that are robbers – and not cops – are up ahead, Bataoil urges them to immediately seek a police station, or immediately call 117 or 2020.

It is best to take note of the police markings on the cruiser from license on word, he added.

If for some reasons, you cannot get a very good close sight up to a group of soldiers, the advice of Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr., the Manila police's chief intelligence officer, is not to erase but hand over the car and report the incident to police as soon as possible.

A POLICE team stops vehicles at a checkpoint along a major thoroughfare in Manila. If a motorist suspects that persons manning a checkpoint are not real policemen, he should report this to the nearest police station, or immediately call 117 or 2020. – RICHARD A. REYES

'Assumptionistas' launch drive to build homes for poor

THREE ORGANIZATIONS WILL LAUNCH "Pasong Assumptionista" on Nov. 11 at 8 a.m. at the Pinoy Hall of the Assumption College in San Lorenzo Village.

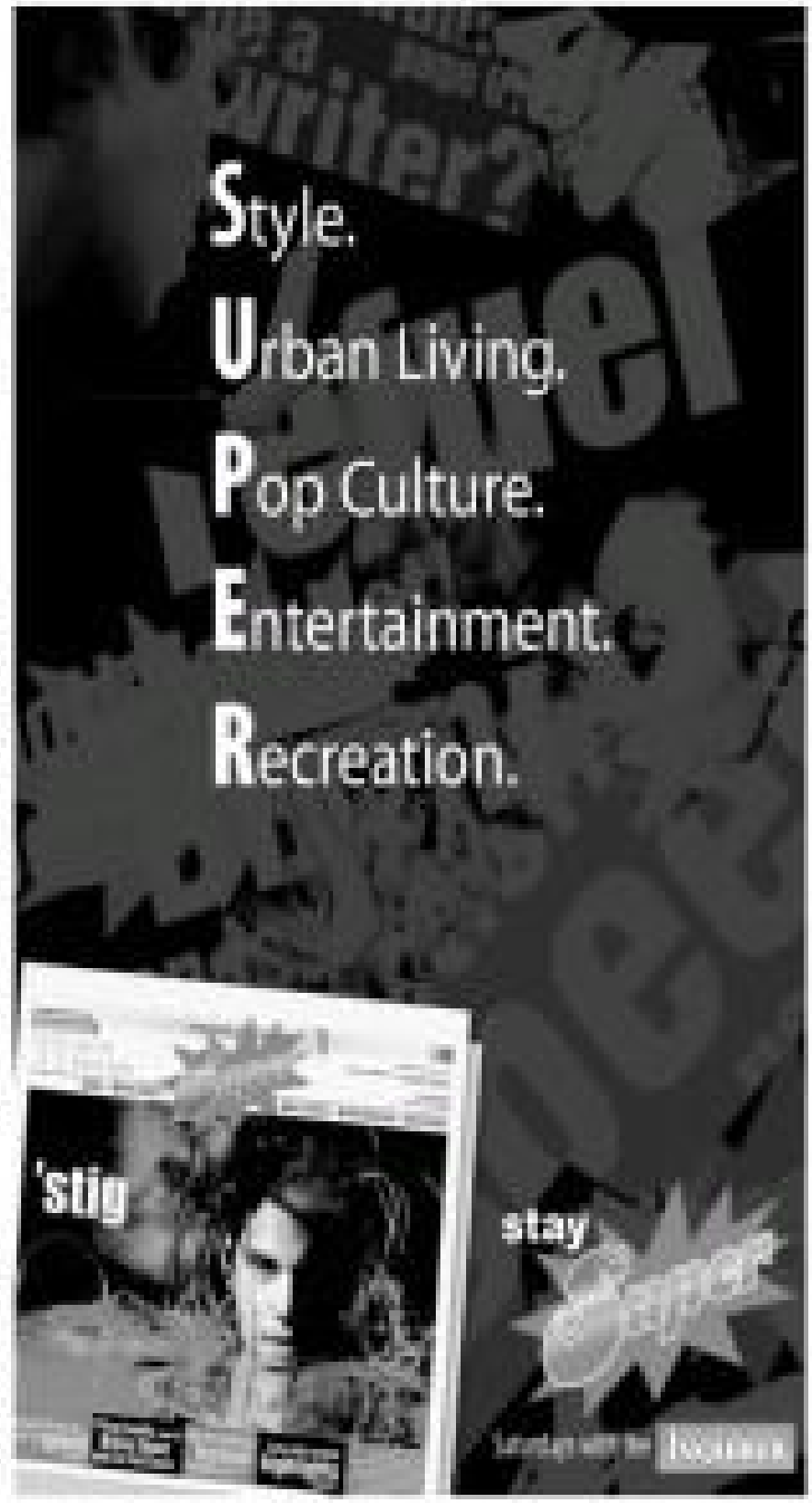
The three organizations – Maryville Urban Development Foundation, Maryville Homeowners Association and Gawad Kalinga 777 – are undertaking the project in response to the need for housing for the poor in the country.

The members of the MUDF and MHA are Assumptionist alumnae working with the parents of Assumption College's urban poor school, San Isidro Response-ness School, in Malibay, Pasay City. They have entered into a partnership with Gawad Kalinga to build 120 houses in Luzon, Cavite for families of SPNS students now living in informal settlers in Malibay.

They will build 75 more houses in addition to the 50 units that have already been funded by FMIC.

The MUDF and MHA members are calling on the Assumption Community – alumnae, students, parents and friends – to contribute their time, effort and financial and material resources needed to complete the project.

With the launching, they hope to make it possible for 70 families to spend Christmas this year in their own homes. Builders using the Gawad Kalinga technology and experience will build each house within one month at a cost of about P90,000.



2ND SEM BLUES

Gov't sees no solution in sight

By Leila B. Salaverria

WITH THE OPENING OF THE second senatorial bets approaching, the government is scrambling to find a way to help several thousand poor holders of pre-need contracts in financial trouble.

But, as Senior Secretary Raul Concepcion has said following a meeting with Securities and Exchange Commission chair Perfecto Yasay Jr., officials pushing floating the cash that some 300,000 plan holders need to pay for their children's tuition is under said functions.

"Definitely the funds available are public funds," Concepcion said in a statement. "That is the legal issue we have to resolve. How we can reached any definitive decision 'life' between members that can use this same to help plan holders. Do the other side you have to say whether what you are doing is legal."

Gonzalez said he also had to study the legality of the DOE's involvement in helping the plan holders out of their predicament in light of a criminal complaint filed with the Department of Justice against the pre-need firm College Assurance Plan, or CAP. There is also a civil case involving CAP's petition for rehabilitation that is still ongoing.

But Gonzalez said he could not ignore a directive from President Macapagal-Arroyo to find a short-term remedy for the plan holders.

The Senior secretary said he and the SEC were trying to help some 200 CAP's plan holders but also those of other pre-need firms in financial trouble.

"We are tackling our heads to find a short-term solution because that is what the president wants," he said.

Gonzalez said one suggestion brought up was to have schools agree to enroll students and collect tuition from later or the plan holders to advance the tuition money and be reimbursed later by the government, assuming a finds a legal way to use public funds for this way.

Another suggestion was to enroll affected students to state colleges and universities (SUCs), but Gonzalez acknowledged this may not work out if their schools did not carry the students' course of choice.

BREAKTIME
Construction workers along UN Avenue in Manila snatch passersby during a work break. The recent implementation of VAT is feared to further erode the economic standing of many poor Filipinos. The President says VAT would give the country higher credit rating. Most Filipinos, however, would be lucky to get more credit from the neighborhood sari-sari store.

Congress plans to allocate P100M for Islamic schools

By Philip C. Tubeza

CONGRESS PLANS TO AP-propriate P100 million for the Islamic madrasah school system next year in an effort to improve the quality of education in the country's Muslim areas, the chair of the House appropriations committee said yesterday.

Committee Sec. Rep. Eduardo Rodriguez said the proposal was "a first" in the country's history and was part of the Department of Education's proposed P118 billion budget for 2006.

Andaya briefed aides from the malacañang, or media, would end up as hotbeds of Islamic radicalism.

"That's far-fetched," he said. "They'll be teaching Hindi, Buddhism and Sultan Bukarat, and not the Quran. That stereotype will not happen here. The standardized curriculum will serve it."

The money will be used to "develop, produce and distribute textbooks and other instructional materials for madrasa (plural for madrasah) school curriculum is being standardized by Depkd," Andaya said.

The allocation would also fund the training of madrasah teachers in the subjects of English, Arabic and Islam, he added.

Madaria have Islamic teachings with the regular education curriculum. As of July, there were around 8,000 madaris throughout the country, mostly located in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). However, only 1,561 — less than 20 percent — had been registered with or accredited by Depkd.

Andaya explained that the "declining school performance" of elementary and high school students in ARMM provided Depkd to ask for funding for programs that will improve education in ARMM and other Muslim areas.

In the last national achievement test in English, Science and Math for Grade VI and senior high school students, ARMM students scored the lowest, according to a Depkd report to Andaya's committee. As a result, functional literacy in the region, at 68 percent, is one of the lowest in the country, it added.

Because ARMM is an autonomous region, its education budget is included in the proposed appropriations for the ARMM government, and not in Depkd's, Andaya said.

To meet the needs of the more than 600,000 students in the region, the ARMM's own Department of Education had a proposed budget of P3.6 billion for 2006, he added.

Andaya said the P100 million Depkd madrasah fund can also be used to fund madaris outside the ARMM.

Urban groups disown ad vs GMA housing program

SEVERAL URBAN POOR ORGANIZATIONS have disowned a full-page newspaper advertisement which claimed that the housing program of the Alyansa agenda-ayan was a failure.

In a press statement, the organizations denied any knowledge nor participation in the placement of the ad. They also pledged their full support for the government's home-for-the-homeless campaign.

The paid ad which appeared in the Oct. 25, 2005 issue of the Inquirer was placed by the anti-government group Urban Poor Alliance. The ad stated "Madame President: Your housing program for the poor has failed."

Fr. Nestorio Pajarde, secretary general of the 70,000-strong Kristiyanong Pwersa ng Pagkakaisa ng Pamayanan (KPPP), said that his group and other nongovernmental organizations listed in the ad as endorsers, were never consulted nor informed of the appearance of the ad.

Pajarde's KPPP was listed as one of the endorsers of the paid advertisement.

Aside from declaring the government's housing program a failure, the UPA also asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to immediately order a moratorium in the implementation of housing projects by the "demolition" project and called for the termination of the Social Housing Finance Corporation and its replacement by a certain Gliceno Quizon.

Military threatens to use arms to disarm Moro rebels

CAMP SIONGCO, MAGUINDANAO – The military yesterday threatened to use armed force to dismantle newly established camps of Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Pagalungan, South Cotabato.

Col. Franklin del Prado, spokesperson of the 6th Infantry Division, said the MILF violated the ceasefire agreement it forged with the government when it established camps and brandished firearms in the village of Pelimbang.

The Army's 6th Division reportedly filed complaints before the joint Government-MILF coordinating committee on the cessation of hostilities (GPH-MILF CCCH).

The GPH-MILF CCCH and the Malaysian-led International Monitoring Team have been closely monitoring violations of the ceasefire accord to see whether to strengthen the foundations of the peace process.

According to Del Prado, combined members of 114th and 107th Base Command of the MILF have been recruiting and training new fighters to augment its forces. Alberto O. Hernandez and Oberlie C. Solisor, PDI Mindanao Bureau

UN to conduct seminar at First Asia Institute

A UNITED NATIONS AGENCY will conduct a training workshop for teachers in Southern Tagalog on Nov. 11-2005 at the First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities in Tanauan City, Batangas. Dr. Leandro Quintanilla, president of Unesco-Iguisore Philippines, will talk on Internet for learning and Working Together. For details, call Gay Gisele Francisco at tel. (043) 778-6006 loc. 1060 or e-mail: gisele.francisco@fatea.edu.ph.

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Greenpeace apologizes to RP, Mother Nature for damage to coral reef

GREENPEACE APOLOGIZED yesterday to the Philippines and Mother Nature for the damage caused by its flagship Rainbow Warrior II on a world heritage site coral reef that the environmental campaigners were supposed to protect.

The group was fined nearly $7,000 earlier this week but blamed what it described as inaccurate navigational charts provided by the Philippine government after the 57-meter schooner ran aground at Tubbataha Reef Marine Park on Monday.

The ship caused damage on an area of some 100 square meters of coral, authorities said.

Greenpeace oil-fired a belated and unconditional apology after the ship docked into the port of Manila as vessel-mates killed hogging your arena the Indo-Pacific, to promote climate change awareness.

"Yes, we admit we are human too. We apologize that this thing happened," Greenpeace Southeast Asia campaign manager Yeb Hernandez told a news conference.

He said it was Greenpeace's understanding "that these things happen quite frequently" at Tubbataha, a spectacular 33,000-hectare coral formation in the Sulu Sea. AFP

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, November 5, 2005
31st Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27
Gospel: Luke 16:9-15

Jesus said to his disciples, "For the sons of this age are more prudent in their dealings with one another than are the children of the light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth, so that when it fails, they will welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever can be trusted in little things can also be trusted in great ones; whoever is dishonest in little matters will also be dishonest in great ones. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling filthy money, who would trust you with true wealth? And if you have not been trustworthy with other people's things, who will give you the wealth which is your own?

"No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the first and love the second, or he will be devoted to the first and despise the second. You cannot serve both God and money."

The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and sneered at Jesus. He said to them, "You are the ones who like to be considered righteous by people. But God knows the hearts, and what men high among humans is loathed by God."

Commentary:

The admonition on yesterday's parable continues. It is about stewardship — use filthy money to make friends for yourselves, so that when it fails, those people may welcome you into the eternal homes. Are we using our resources in little things (money) to care for the needs of others or are we doing all so that our own needs are satisfied? Are we trustworthy and what has been given to us? Are we trustworthy with the things entrusted to us? Are we trustworthy with the poor of Christ, the Word entrusted of God about us and us? Are we trying to serve two masters — what one do we really hold in contempt? Are we intent on making sure others, what holds us in high esteem? Are we thinking of ourselves all of us? Look first for us and let us see our selves to serve you for what we truly are and have to hide to you. Be honest realistically do an assessing of our lives, and forgive the debts others owe us unto Jesus.

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The WORLD

Editor Lamberto R. Guiwa

Poland, Romania may harbor CIA prisons

WASHINGTON—FLIGHT RECORDS AND OTHER evidence points to Poland and Romania as countries that allowed their territory to be used by the CIA to hold top suspected al-Qaida captives, a Human Rights Watch director said Thursday.

Tom Malinowski, the Washington director of the human rights group, said the evidence, though circumstantial, strongly pointed to Poland and Romania as being among the unidentified eastern European countries referred to in a Washington Post report Wednesday on secret CIA war prisons.

Malinowski said sources in Afghanistan told the New York-based rights organization that top al-Qaida suspects, including Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, were moved out of Afghanistan in September 2003.

The same month, a Boeing 737, branded by the CIA as transport contractors, departed from Kabul and made stops at remote airfields in Poland and Romania before continuing on to Morocco and Bertica Island in the Azores, Malinowski said.

"It's a large aircraft so you could imagine a large group of detainees flying on this plane, as against some other smaller executive jets that they used," he told AFP.

"The fact that it stops in eastern Europe, then Morocco and then Guantanamo suggests different classes of prisoners being dropped off in different places," he said.

In Brussels, a spokesperson for NATO's Belgian branch, Jean-Paul Mayboy, said "inquiries up until now seem to indicate that Poland and Romania are the countries that received prisoners held by the CIA." He refused to rule out the CIA could be holding "ghost prisoners" elsewhere in eastern Europe.

The European Commission meanwhile said it would look into press reports that the CIA was running secret prisons in eastern Europe.

"When we have finished that examination, we will further decide our stances," said Press Secretary Ahlborg, an EU spokesperson for justice and security affairs.

"Obviously, the existence of secret prisons does not seem to me to be compatible with the EU's fundamental rights charter," he said.

The Post said the CIA has run an international network of secret prisons for top al-Qaida suspects since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

Citing US government officials and foreign diplomats, the newspaper said the so-called "black sites" have been located in at least eight countries, including Thailand and several eastern European former Soviet states.

The Post said the CIA has been hiding and interrogating some of its most important al-Qaida captives in a cluster of a compound in eastern Europe. AFP

Bush ratings drop to new lows

WASHINGTON—FOR THE first time in his presidency, a majority of Americans questioned President George W. Bush's personality traits in key areas fell to new lows in an ABC News/Washington Post poll published on Thursday.

Fewer than half—46 percent—said Bush was honest and trustworthy. Separately, 49 percent rated his handling of ethics in government negative, and fewer than half called him a strong leader, another first, according to the poll.

Sixty percent of Americans disapproved of his overall job performance, which ABC said was "a level unseen since overseas disaster hit before Election Day 2004." That compared with a 49 percent approval rating, the poll said.

Even in his own party just under half of Republicans—48 percent—now strongly approve of Bush's job performance, a 22-point drop from the start of the year when Republicans gave Bush a 71 percent job approval rating, ABC said. Reuters

150 cars torched in new Paris riots

PARIS—RIOTERS SET FIRE TO AT LEAST 150 vehicles in an eighth night of unrest in the impoverished suburbs of northeastern Paris as exasperated local officials stationed petitioning for national leaders.

Shaking erupted again late on Thursday despite hopes that a massive mailing the fanning wrath of Saturday's would calm rioters, many of them Muslim of North African origin protesting against race bias they say keeps them in a second-class status.

Police and there were fewer confrontations than in previous nights as police said five years were first spun by some rioters. They said 116 vehicles had been destroyed overnight.

Security officials said a heavy police presence—about 1,000 riot police patrolled poor areas...had acted as a deterrent, but rioters nevertheless set fire to two vehicle warehouses, a bus depot and a primary school.

"Why a school, why a car? What can you say about such blind violence," one local mayor Mohel Boumaza said.

But the first time disturbances spread outside the Paris region, youths torching cars in Dijon, Strasbourg and the Rouen area dominated by Muslim, though the extent of the unrest was not immediately clear.

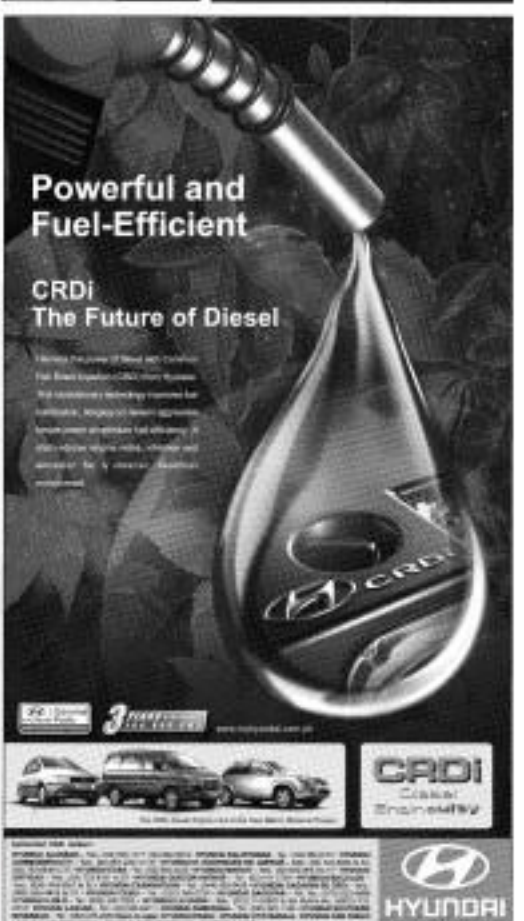
On Thursday evening, loud officials complained loudly about delaying and politicking among rightist individuals Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin briefed them about an "action plan for the suburbs" he aimed to present later this month.

"Many of us told him this isn't the time for an announcement," said Jean-Christophe Lagarde, mayor of Drancy in the red Ad region. "All we need is one shock and (think it will) get out of control," Mourad Vella, mayor of Livry-Gargan of the capital.

"We're afraid that what's happening in Seine Saint Denis will spread. We have to give these people a message of hope."

Rioting among young men of North African and black African origin—mostly locally born citizens who feel shunned by France's official promises of liberty, equality and fraternity—began last week after two teenagers of African origin died while fleeing the police.

Villepin and Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy whose bitter political rivalry has overshadowed the government's reaction, jointed up in the French Senate on Thursday to announce that watering order was their "absolute priority." Villepin indirectly blamed the riots on gangs he said terrorized residents and sought to keep police out of their districts, and wound law and order would have the final word. Reuters



China, Vietnam report new bird flu outbreaks

BEIJING—CHINA AND VIETNAM said weekend new bird flu outbreaks and warned of more infections to come, amid predictions that a flu pandemic could kill up to 7 million people in Asia and plunge the world into recession.

The latest Chinese outbreak, discovered on Oct. 26, killed 4,540 chickens and prompted officials to destroy 106,000 other birds in Rudaokou village in Liaoning province over objections, the Agriculture Ministry said late Thursday.

China has reported three other bird flu outbreaks since Oct. 14. No human cases have been reported, but authorities have warned that one is inevitable if the world's most populous country fails to contain outbreaks in chickens and ducks.

In Vietnam, more than 3,000 poultry died or were culled this week in three villages in the Mekong province, about 60 km northwest of Hanoi, provincial vice chair Nguyen Dang said Friday.

"Vietnamese officials have blamed the transport of poultry in or from the three affected villages, and the villages and three nearby districts have been disinfected and poultry have been vaccinated," said provincial chair Nguyen Dang Minh.

Truong Van Hoan, deputy director of the National Health Department, said seven total flu cases are likely.

"We expect more outbreaks, not just in Bac Giang, but also in other provinces," he said. "Under worst-case scenarios it could be five years to spread." Between mid-March to when Vietnam last reported news of its bird flu cases and deaths.

Vietnam began vaccinating its poultry flocks in early August, but its deadline of completing the vaccinations of 200 million birds by mid-November may be delayed by at least two weeks because of a shortage of vaccines imported from China.

The deadly H5N1 virus of bird flu has killed at least 62 people—including 41 in Vietnam, according to World Health Organization figures — and resulted in the deaths of more than 140 million chickens in Asia since 2003. AP

Cheney aide pleads not guilty

WASHINGTON—I.I. (SCOOTER) LIBBY, Vice President Dick Cheney's former aide, Lewis Libby, pleaded not guilty on Thursday to charges in the CIA leak probe, and his lawyer promised to fight it out in a public trial that could put a spotlight on how the White House made its case for the Iraq war.

"With respect, your honor, I plead not guilty," Libby told Federal Judge Reggie Walton during his 10-minute arraignment.

Walton, who did not schedule a trial date, set Libby's next court appearance for Feb. 3. But lawyers warned that the case could get bogged down, for months, in a fight over classified documents underpinning the obstruction charges.

Cheney could top officials could be questioned to testify in an eventual trial.

Libby, 55, resigned as Cheney's chief of staff on Friday after he was indicted on five counts of obstructing justice, perjury and lying to the two-year investigation into the leak of covert CIA operative Valerie Plame's identity. If convicted, Libby faces a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison.

Plame's identity was leaked to the media in July 2003 after her diplomat husband, Joseph Wilson, accused the Bush administration of twisting intelligence in support of most destruction to justify the war in Iraq.

Libby's newly hired defense lawyer, Theodore Wells, promised a vigorous court battle.

"Mr. (Libby) has declared from his inception to fight this charge in the indictment and he has declared that he wants to clear his good name and he wants a jury trial," Wells said after Libby was fingerprinted and had his picture taken for members of the federal courthouse.

Before any trial, Libby could still try to cut a deal with special counsel Patrick Fitzgerald to plead guilty to lower charges and cooperate in the investigation, though Wells sought to play down that possibility.

President George W. Bush's top political adviser, Karl Rove, was not indicted on Friday along with Libby. But lawyers involved in the case said Rove remained under investigation and may still be charged in the case. Fitzgerald is expected to announce news of his decisions in the coming weeks.

Libby's indictment was a downer day for the White House already reeling from the mounting US deaths toll in the Iraq war, the bungled response to Hurricane Katrina and the withdrawal of US Supreme Court nominee Harriet Miers under fire from Bush's conservative power base.

In a letter to Cheney, House Democratic leaders accused him of implicating Libby with "two staffers who have themselves been connected with this Plame affair." Reuters

PRAYER AT RAMADAN'S END
Hamza Farooq of Iowa City, Iowa, prays during a ceremony marking the end of Ramadan at the Iowa City Mosque/Ansar location Nov. 1. AP

China boasts it will be top in tourism by 2017

BEIJING—CHINA WILL BECOME the world's top tourism destination by 2017, China state media quoted World Tourism Organization president Francesco Frangialli as saying on Friday.

The WTO has forecast China will receive 137 million inbound tourists in 2020, but the goal could likely be achieved earlier due to the country's move to ease its visa restrictions, Frangialli said, citing an official at the National Tourism Administration.

China received 41.76 million tourists who spent at least one night last year, ranked fourth in the world. France was number one.

China earned $25.7 billion from tourism last year, Xinhua said, providing jobs for scores of million people.

But increasing numbers of Chinese are also traveling overseas, many for the first time, in pursuit of double digit increases paved to more money in people's pockets.

Almost 29 million Chinese went abroad on holiday last year, the report added, making China the eighth largest source of travelers in total.

The number is expected to reach 50 million by 2010, Xinhua said. Reuters

Emergency call after London bombings details harrowing scene

LONDON—ONE OF THE FIRST emergency calls made following the July 7 bomb attacks in London was aired for the first time on Thursday, detailing the harrowing scenes faced by witnesses.

In the tape, a man—trembling heavily and his voice shaking—describes seeing the dead and injured after an explosion on a bus during the morning rush hour.

Three other explosions had already occurred on the capital's underground rail network. Fifty-six people died, including four apparent suicide bombers, in the worst terrorist attacks on Britain.

The call was placed at a City Hall meeting between members of a London Assembly committee reviewing the city's response to the attacks and the heads of the police, fire, ambulance and public transport services.

"Bit, sir, there's a bus just exploded outside in Tavistock Square—just outside my window," the witness told the police operator.

"Tavistock Square?" asked the call handler.

"Yeah, in London. There's people lying on the ground and everything." "Right, and it was an explosion on the bus, was it?"

"Yeah, there's people lying in the road, there's a London bus, it's a (number) 30, I think.

"There's people trying to get out. I think there's ambulances on the way, but there's people dead and everything by the looks of it."

"Okay." The operator was heard to say. "Right, the explosion happened a few minutes ago, lads?"

"Er, about two minutes ago." The bus blasts exploded at 9:47 am (0847 GMT), nearly an hour after the Underground blasts.

Andy Trotter, Deputy Chief Constable of British Transport Police, said the overall response of all services had been "excellent in today's circumstances" but accepted lessons needed to be learnt.

"We have been debriefing over days, looking at ways we can improve," Trotter told the committee. "The could happen in any other days in the future." AP

US wall to keep Mexicans out

WASHINGTON – REPUBLICAN LAWMAKERS have introduced a bill to build a 5,000-kilometer wall along the US border with Mexico to keep illegal immigrants out.

The legislation aims to "create a border security fence from the Pacific Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico," said House of Representatives members Duncan Hunter of California and Virgil Goode of Virginia in a statement.

"Prior to Sept. 11, 2001, illegal immigration was considered a regional issue without national implications. We quickly learned on that day however, that this is a national issue, affecting each and every American, not just those living in border communities like San Diego County," Hunter said.

The Department of Homeland Security and Border Patrol in Washington also "authorize thousands of new border patrol officers, immigration investigators, attorneys and immigration judges," they said.

Hunter said the bill was important to identify who crosses the border and who helps them do it.

Aside the cost and difficulty of building a wall along the entire border with Mexico, Hunter simply said, "It's a simple construction." While Hunter seemed skeptic that a fence would work in keeping out unwanted immigrants, pointing to a successful 23 kilometer section of fence near San Diego, California, other Republican lawmakers were not so sure.

Rep. Jeff Flake of Arizona said that a fence would not work for half of the 400,000 immigrants that enter the United States every year and overstay their legal entry visas. AFP

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Brainless

FOREIGN AFFAIRS UNDERSECRETARY FOR MIGRANT Workers' Affairs Jose Brillantes wants to replace the brain drain phenomenon with what he calls "brain circulation." He cites what he calls a growing perception that migrant workers are an essential part of the development not only of the countries they move to but of the countries they leave. Essentially this means that countries that try to attract foreign workers have come to realize that it is to their interest to ensure a steady supply of those workers, and that includes helping the labor exporting countries to keep producing such workers. The Philippines, then, according to Brillantes, should seek out ways to ensure that our highly skilled workers don't depart en masse.

EDITORIAL

How can this be done? Brillantes suggests stricter supervision over the recruiting process (which should mean establishing a process of identifying vital strategic professions which the country must safeguard); bilateral labor agreements between our country and countries that seek to attract skilled Filipino workers; encouraging investments in the Philippines to create or improve industries or professions here at home; signing on to the General Agreement on Trade and Services; and getting foreign aid to be earmarked toward education and training here at home.

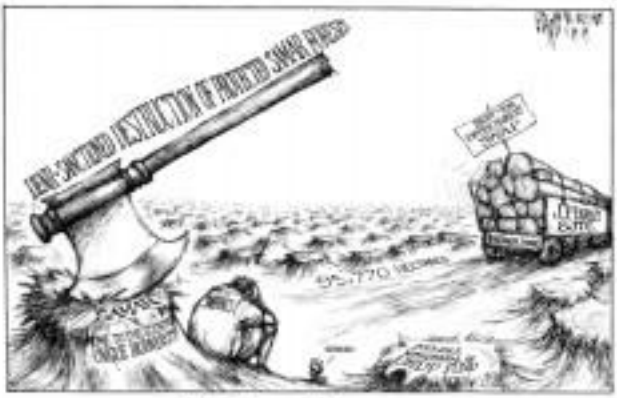
The proposals made by Brillantes and similar ones propounded by Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas are a step in the right direction. In recent years, the exportation of Philippine labor has made a rapid—and alarming—shift from blue-collar to white-collar workers, partially because traditional markets for blue-collar workers (construction workers, seamen, household help) have become mature and are thus no longer expanding at the rate they used to, and the opening up of new opportunities for white-collar workers abroad, such as information technology workers, nurses and caregivers for the aging populations of developed countries. The opening of more opportunities for nurses and caregivers, in particular, has led to an explosive increase in the export of skilled workers, including the wholesale abandonment by Filipino doctors of their professions to take on what they considered previously as a lesser livelihood, which is caregiving.

The officials have been doing good names are now hard to find. Hospitals are finding themselves understaffed, and an entire generation of doctors has decided to go into cribs. Accompanying the decimation of our doctors and nurses is the sudden overexpansion of nursing and caregiver schools, resulting in the proliferation of diploma mills whose substandard graduates are harming both the local medical industry and the country's ability to maintain a good reputation abroad. Add to this the added impetus to a national economy built on exporting not only brawn but brains, and you have a recipe for building a parasitical economy in which millions working abroad keep the economy afloat, without building up a nation worth coming back home to—really a recipe for national suicide.

Business journalist Tony Lopez has estimated that one of every two Filipino families is supported by an overseas worker. That's eight million OFWs, representing half of the 15 million households in the Philippines, and remitting 90 billion to $12 billion a year—"enough to fuel consumer spending... [which is] why the economy is growing, because of consumption, [but] without creating jobs significantly."

His analysis is shared by many other observers, who consider the phenomenon as both a boon and a bane. The advantage is that it makes the country essentially buoyant, immune from the efforts of local politics (and stasis). The disadvantage is that it breeds a sense of impunity on the part of OFWs and their dependents here at home (why care about the country, when their destinies are determined by those working abroad?).

The government must formulate the policy mentioned by Brillantes, but go beyond it and recognize that there is a national emergency. The country is rapidly approaching the stage where its best minds have left or are leaving, and no one is being left behind either to attend to the needs of those left behind, or even train a new generation of white-collar workers. Left to their own devices, a desperate middle and professional class will flee, leaving a country that is incapable of replacing them.



Criticism of the courts

SEPARATE OPINION

Jaime N. Soriano

WITH ALL THE BICKERING BETWEEN Congress and the President, there's one thing that we don't hear the noisy faultfinders, denouncers of the government in the habit of: That is, a noisy and vigorous opposition. The so-called heroes of the people's rights has no share of the imperfections of our public servants like corruption, inefficiency resulting in political cutthroat, greed for power, personal ambition and other similar weaknesses.

The reason why it is not subjected to the same criticism that is being made against the legislature and the chief executive is the contempt power of the courts. The Supreme Court has allowed a few unmeasured attacks against the other two departments but has reserved special protection and immunity for the judiciary.

While we may freely comment on any act of [illegible] and Congress, we are not allowed to do so on anyone that [illegible] or will under study by a court of justice. The direct reason is that we may unfairly influence the judge or even the justices in deciding the case.

This is an extension of judicial evolution that has been consistently followed since it took firm announced in the 1930 case of People vs. Alarcon, 69 Phil. 265.

Even if the case has already been decided, we must observe yet another restraint. Although we are now permitted to criticize the decision, we must do so with the utmost courtesy and respect for the court that rendered it. While we may unleash missiles attacks against the President or any member of Congress, we cannot freely choose our target in attacking any judge, especially the justices of the Supreme Court.

The justification given is that judges and especially justices are entitled to special respect from the public. The implications is that the President of the Philippines and the members of Congress do not deserve similar respect and may be reasonably abused in the name of freedom of expression. But one rule restrictions.

During my years on the Supreme Court, I wished for an opportunity to cry to tower the thereon cone, but then occasions never came. I have tried to provoke such an opportunity in several articles I have written in this column, but alas to vain. I am still hoping that the case will be so examined and attended, to place the restrictions on the same level as the political departments.

Only the public will suppose that the judiciary is flawless under Congress and the Presidents. In fact, the Supreme Court has made many serious mistakes that are there part of the law of the land because it says so. Among a few exceptional cases, Antillon vs. Custer, 61 Phil. 17, was originally dismissed by the Supreme Court on the ground that it raised a political question. The justices later reconsidered their decision after a very severe criticism by [illegible] and Claro M. Recto.

Many other judicial errors have prevailed, as in the case of Mallotting v. Lopez Vito, 78 Phil. 3, where the Supreme Court recently ruled that it had no jurisdiction to annul the unconstitutional congressional resolution proposing the Parity Amendment. Necessarily such resolution was subsequently rejected in Tolentino v. Comelec, 108 Phil. 1110. But other erroneous decisions have not been corrected, especially those favoring the popular identity against the object of the courts.

In Danilo Marcos vs. Sandiganbayan, 207 SCRA 105, the Supreme Court, in [illegible] to extend the petitioner's immunities for grade by the Sandiganbayan court and the Third Division of the High Tribunal. In Estrada v. Sandiganbayan, 208 SCRA 302, the accused were advised for creating a "lawful" order of Marcos to transfer P54 million of public funds to his without accountability. In Joseph Ejercito Estrada vs. OSM, 267 SCRA 806, a per-qualified Malacañang highest minister was pre-empted by a delayed his influential local businessman close to the Court. In the last case on the Penal, the defendants, 267 SCRA 737, the petitioner was finally acquitted through a 40-page[illegible] writing that was supposed only by five justices, there others remaining only in the minds and four pro-bar vice votes for that case), with the chief justice dissenting. The decision also being the second [illegible] administrative attempt, an unanimous [illegible], 415 SCRA 44, covered another of the minute which the ratio alcohol was contained in only one paragraph like a minute resolution.

In these and other questionable decisions of the Supreme Court, criticism was inhibited because of the Alarcon doctrine. Denunciation of the political rulings of the Supreme Court during martial law was absolutely prohibited and risked contempt consequences. The effects were several cases happened after Edsa. I but were still not "boldly challenged except by a few reckless indeed.

Under the Equal Protection Clause, persons or things similarly situated should be treated alike. Both in the rights conferred and the responsibilities imposed. The three main branches of the government are co-equal under the Constitution. But the Supreme Court believes that the Judiciary is a department raised in its own esteem and should not be similarly reviewed as Congress and the President.

Anti-Muslim bias

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

FOR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO KNOW more about the causes of the Mindanao conflict or the world, which just happen to be in the Philippines—the Moro and the centuries-old struggles against the Philippine government—I suggest that they read the 2005 Philippine Human Development Report (PHDR). It is organized in an easy manner, drawing on at least 12 papers commissioned from different experts, and is probably more reader friendly than most, with all kinds of boxes and tables supplied to ensure attention is given where needed.

And if I am accused of a personal bias in this regard, I readily admit to it, since I have been part of the Philippine Human Development Network for 2005, which produces the report, since its inception. I am proud of that association, and I also must disclose that my daughter Solita had a significant role in putting the latest report together.

On the other hand, the credentials of those behind the report, starting with Filipino president Jesus Estanislao, plus executive director Soledad Tadem, the Ateneo de Manila University faculty, the contributors, those from government, academe and non-government organizations who participated in the consultation process during the commissioned workshops, all guarantee quality.

In the discussion on the Moro armed conflict, what should be a resolution is many people's claim both Muslims and Christians. Being in Mindanao, in the midst of the research and workshops, participants recounted personal experiences about how Muslims were shut out of jobs or study opportunities and how people expressed gratification that Muslims were "good" even if they "are Muslims" If you in terms of chain workshops when the talks were told, and I myself was shocked). One of the invites told was about [illegible] Dr. Jamal A. Barrie, vice chancellor for Research and Extension of Mindanao State University, whose application was turned down when he tried to buy a car in Pioneer Subdivision, Cagayan de Oro City, after the sellers who made the offer to the Cadidoc-wife found out that he married to a Muslim. Or another Muslim professional whose application for a loan was turned down even in the loan of her subordinate, of which she was the guarantor, was approved. These and other anecdotes in Appendix 1.1 will end your eyes.

In order to determine whether these qualitative findings were indicative of a wider phenomenon, the HDN worked with Pulse Asia to design a 30-question survey, including four "social distance" questions, asking respondents to choose between two people alike in all other relevant aspects but with one having a Christian-sounding name and the other a Muslim-sounding name as possible boarder, doctor, neighbor, boss, close friend, relative by blood, relative by marriage, co-worker, co-employee, and [illegible] "exclusive" questions which took into consideration well-developed images of Muslims (opposition to women, priests to run states, hate non-Muslims, join terrorist or secessionist, do not consider themselves as Filipinos), one question asking for the respondent's source of information on Muslims, and a last question asking for respondent to name a group that she/he associates with the word "terrorism" (unaided recall).

Some of the findings: Less than 1/4 percent choose the person with the Muslim-sounding name, while slightly less than half choose the person with the Christian-sounding name and about the same percentage say either will do. The majority of Filipinos think that Muslims are good people (53 percent), (35 percent of respondents), that they are probably terrorists or extremists (40 percent), although they are probably not oppressive to women (68 percent), [illegible] Muslims appears to be somewhat [illegible] with geographic location: Filipinos tend to have a more negative view[illegible] 25-6 years and over are more biased, 35 years and below less biased). A larger percentage of Ilokanos exhibit bias, with respect to stereotypes, with a majority (62 percent or 7/1 percent) agreeing with four of the negative stereotypes, and a plurality (40 percent) believing the Muslims are probably oppressive to women. On the other hand, a majority of Muslim-owners, while believing that Muslims are not oppressive to women (70 percent) and expanding Christians as Filipinos (57 percent), appear to regard Muslims as violent, believing that they are terrorists and extremists (36 percent) and prone to use force (54 percent).

Asking specific concrete questions of and Muslim, then, serves to highlight certain [illegible] and the like, the unexplained conclusion is that a considerable percentage of Filipinos (33 percent to 39 percent) are biased against Muslims notwithstanding the fact that only [illegible] of them have had direct dealings with Muslims.

Incidentally, the latest (9/05 national survey which included three questions on the perception of Islam, one question on the source of knowledge of that religion, and only one question on the perception of Muslims, is hardly comparable to the detail and depth of the HDN Pulse Asia effort.

Bottom line. Unless we take steps to overcome that prejudice, the Moro conflict may never end.

Santos case shows anti-terror bill badly needed

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cassayan

THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE OF THE ARMED Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) has apparently admitted a lot of the "circumstantial" facts surrounding the "sudden" release of suspected terrorists Tohmir "Tomar" Santos, allegedly the second-in-command of the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) Southeast Asian terror group, and Rolando Bolos, who was alleged to be the military intelligence as possible for the bombing of the Light Rail Transit train through help chief Rear Admiral Tirso Danga has admitted his agency has no hard evidence against Bolos, according to the military. Santos' former lost no love unrecorded in this connection for Bolos' lawyer had been a member of the legal team that got the P200,000 bail, but after Bolos walked the room room and the three of them huddled together, the lawyer immediately announced they could already post bail. The lawyer, Bolos' brother and Santos' wife, who have not been identified publicly, later went to the Manila Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 46 where Judge Ismael Khan Jr. was presiding and posted bail.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña, who's married to a member of the Santos clan that owns the plane network, denounced the Palace and made the situation called "equal justice in divine public attention from the trial money benefiting the suspected terrorists. Osmeña, who has also been critical of the government's handling of the Santos case, said he would not be surprised if Santos' lawyer was also the lawyer of Bolos. Santos' former lawyer, Manuel Mamauag, denies who had earlier told Inquirer columnist Ramon Tulfo that the army were behind the bail by the legal team of Santos and also denied that the two accused were related to each other

Who are for retrieval of logs?

LETTERS

THE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, TITLE "Quezon folk seek more time to retrieve logs" (PDI, 9/23/01), on the proposal to extend the suspension period for the log ban and/or the renewal operation of renewal logs and forest products until December 2001.

The proponents are said to belong to the Bukas Diwal Isilinta Hukad Multi-Sectoral Executive Committee on Revised Wood Stock Retrieval, Utilization and Disposition. Their proposal is reportedly based on the statements Secretary Michael Defensor's memorandum "allowing the retrieval and movement of logs and wood products in Quezon and provinces for decision as part of government disaster preparedness program." The program was supposed to end technically on Oct. 2, 2001.

The Church people in the Bukas area and the indigenous peoples (IPs) in the Sierra Madre Mountains were reported to be enthusiastically supportive of the proposal to extend the suspension period, etc., of the Presidents of Bilaran, desist that are support this proposal of the Sierra Madre-based Executive Committee, and on behalf of the biggest Apa organization in the area which we represent, we also deny the group's reported enthusiastic support for the proposal.

We are aware, however, that unscrupulous organizations and selfish individuals are using the Apa communities to advance their financial interests.

In one of the pioneer and principal establishment operation in the disaster-stricken county, we firmly believe that the rampant abuse of our surrounding forest and aquamarine resources [illegible] to massive [illegible] of trees, poisoning of river systems and pulverizing of woods and fish habitats are committed repeatedly by the same culprits in high and mighty places and by well-connected, unscrupulous private groups and individuals who cannot be punished because of their power and influence.

We do not want the evacuation of our area's ancestral [illegible], mudflows and landslides, which killed thousands of people, destroyed billions of pesos worth of property and brought untold miseries to the calamity victims.

We urge the heavens to identify the "Church people," if any, who are involved in the initiative of the Sierra Madre Executive Committee. This is a matter of public interest and justice to the faithful and to the Church, whose position as a moral and pro-environmental institution might have been put to doubt by the report.

—DEACON MARIO DALUZON,
coordinator, Social Action Center,
RITA H. PUTI BIBITALLARA,
director, Tribal Center for Development,
Prelature of Infanta

NBI supports campaign against software piracy

PLEASE FIND OUR RESPONSE TO THE letter of Gabriela Ramos who asked whether the National Bureau of Investigation is assisting drug abuse among the young. (PDI, 10/11/01)

On Aug. 16, 2001, the NBI, Optical Media Board, Philippine National Police, Intellectual Property Coalition and the Business Software Alliance launched in the Philippines Anti-Piracy month (Buwan) to focus Makati City.

The main opportunity for the campaign that aims to curb software piracy in the Philippines and reduce the country's software piracy rate of 71 percent in 2000 to a manageable level this year. The campaign was to start after 30 days from the launching. A warning to this effect was disseminated through the media, enjoining users of unregistered or pirated software to comply with the requirements of RA 8293 (Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines).

Then, on Sept. 18, 2001, the NBI received the resolutions against users of illegitimate software. The NBI strongly denies that it raided business outfits in Davao City on Sept. 11, 2001.

The lawsuits were based on complaints from members of the BSA, and only in accordance with its mandate as a campaign arm of the law enforcement institutions.

It would do well for American cable operators and others concerned to abide by the requirements of the law to legitimize their software business instead of closing shop.

—NESTOR M. MANTARING,
assistant director,
National Bureau of Investigation,
Manila

Serving God by serving others

I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE ADDITIONAL information regarding Fr. Divo Sorrentino, whom the Pilipino Asyonan wrote about in the articles titled "The healing touch of Fr. Mottino" (PDI, 9/23/01) and "Priest practices 'bio-dynamic' healing." (PDI, 9/15/01.)

Thanks to Father Mottino, the Fr. Johns Rehabilitation Hall [outside the ICP chapel] is transformed every Monday into a center for the healing of mind, body and spirit.

The hall comes alive as early as 6:30 in the morning. The patients come from all walks of life. Some arrive in wheelchairs. Others walk in slow, measured steps using canes. Cancer patients are given top priority.

The healing session starts at exactly 8:30 when everyone is organized to do the Hallucit—exercises that are based on external healing concepts to regulate breathing, build up strength and flexibility of muscles, accelerate blood circulation, relieve stress, etc. The pain and discomfort of moving arthritic knees and aching joints, the thought of cancer cells lurking in the colon, breast, liver, cancers, lungs, prostate, bones, etc. are temporarily forgotten. Every wave of the hand, every pull of a muscle, every twist of the knee is offered to God as we mean the healing energy to flow within us.

A 15-15 minute meditation precedes the celebration of the Holy Mass which is the focus of the healing process.

Every week and then, the healing effects of virgin coconut oil are discussed. Many patients have attested to its positive, almost miraculous results.

My husband and I are part of this crowd. We have attended the sessions since May.

I have witnessed Father Mottino doing "diagnostic healing." With his right palm, he scans the patient's body, the direction of his ground underneath a thorough. He is elated when he "sees" that a cancer has shrunk or half its original size. He senses that what was once a reddish-brown tumor has turned pale. He feels his pain on you, pushes, measures. He lays his hand on the affected part, closes his eyes, prays and blesses you.

Father Mottino attributes his gift of healing to an accident in his life several years back. While driving along a highway, a stone was hurled at his car, shattering on from windshield and leaving his right eye. He felt many blood gush forth and an excruciating pain in his eye. As he lost consciousness, a certain voice seemed upon him, giving him a healing of flooding two washington as with an all-powerful but loving presence engulfing him. He awoke in this healing, purifying light, he felt an indescribable joy and praised God: "Lord if it is your will, take my eyes, if not, please take care."

The missionary's work loving underlaid by this healing [illegible] and unity given hope [illegible] the faith of countless people who are in pain and continually seeking for a more for their salvation. Still, Father Mottino looks back to all of this as God's way of telling over his life so he can serve thirsty souls [illegible].

—FELISA HUGHSON TARPE,
37 Pecos St.,
San Fabrizio, Quezon City

When Morato became QC mayor

I ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS the clarification of what Manuel Morato called the "confusion" on the date of the appointment of Tomas Morato as first mayor of Quezon City. (PDI, Letters, 7/13/98)

There is no problem with regard to the date of Tomas Morato's appointment being Dec. 12, 1938, as shown in the documents in the possession of Morato, which is also the date the city charter was signed. In my many (PDI, 10/5/98), it wrote: "President Quezon himself assumed the function corresponding to the mayor, from Dec. 12 to Jan. 4, 1939, but without the formal appointment of a mayor..." presumably because Tomas Morato was still unable to act officially as Quezon City mayor. It was not until Jan. 4, 1939, that he assumed the position due to the fact that he "had to hurriedly wind up his official affairs" elsewhere.

The confusion was over the date. In letter No. 1, Quezon was "officer in charge" (as referred to by Manuel Quezon III), or "caretaker" (as indicated by Manuel Morato) of the newly-created charter city. The first mayor of Quezon City was indeed Tomas Morato.

—BERNARDITA REYES CHURCHILL,
Hilmar, Quezon City

Press freedom should be respected

THE UNDERSIGNED FACULTY members of the University of the Philippines College of Mass Communication [UP CMC] strongly denounce the military and police for the harassment of a photojournalist on the night of Dec. 3.

Boni Udan, a photographer of the Manila Times, was taking photographs of the damage caused by bombings to the Cocha office on Lapu-Lapu Boni Road, Barangay Malibuan in Taguig City when he was confronted by around 20 troopers of the Philippine Army and the Philippine National Police.

Since he was quick to arrive at the scene, the police officers and soldiers accused him of being in connivance with the Abu Sayyaf Group's army which was suspected to be the perpetrator. To make matters worse, he was prevented from taking photographs of the damaged sections of the Cocha office and the memory card of his digital camera was confiscated. He was also detained at the Taguig PNP headquarters from 12:30 a.m. to 2 a.m. on Dec. 5.

In our interview with Udan, he said that on his way to the Taguig PNP headquarters, he was treated like a criminal. His Toyota Revo was flanked by two mobile patrol cars and he was made to sit beside a police officer armed with an M-16 rifle.

The action of the military and police was clearly a direct assault on the freedom of the press. It shows strict ignorance of the meanings of the journalism profession. Such red-tagging tactics also reflects the military's and police's perception that journalists, particularly those critical of government policies and programs, are part of what they call a "grand conspiracy" to destabilize the government.

Udan, who has been working for 20 years as a photojournalist for the Manila Times, Sun Star News Service, Sun Star Manila, PJ Daily Expos and other publications, was merely doing his job, and the military and police had absolutely no right to prevent him from covering the event.

We call on the military and the police to respect the freedom of the press and to allow journalists to freely practice their profession. To prevent incidents like this from happening again, the government should conduct an impartial investigation of the case and compel those responsible to issue a public apology to Udan and the Manila Times in the earliest possible time. Otherwise, the complaint will prove that the government does not value press freedom.

—DANILO A. ARAO,
chair, Department of Journalism,
with 13 faculty members of the
University of the Philippines
College of Mass Communication,
Hilmar, Quezon City

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, China Bank Avenue, corner Ilaya and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4792, 897-4794, or e-mail <readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph>

Writer's of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

InqBox
Question of the Week
How will the November 1 implementation of eVAT affect your life?
Senders of short (5 lines or less) letters published in Tuesday's InqBox will each receive an 'Inquirer Shirt'!

Text INQ [space] name/age/city/message.

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Up to 100 more miners feared trapped in tunnel

A MINER checks another tunnel Oct. 28 in Pk. Diwata after a tragic accident that earlier reportedly killed miners.

DIGOS CITY—BETWEEN 50 TO 100 MORE MEN ARE BELIEVED trapped in a tunnel that caved in and killed dozens of miners on Mt. Diwata in Compostela Valley, according to officials at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

A top DENR official, who asked not to be identified until the final death toll has been released, said reports from the mining site indicate that as many as 100 miners were in the Sanoline tunnel when an explosion caused a cave-in.

The official said many other miners who were trapped in the tunnel were believed not accounted for in the DENR or government tally.

Six more bodies have been found yesterday, but the Office of Civil Defense said it has not given up hope anyone could still be found.

Reynaldo Iquiniña, vice president and spokesperson of BHMC, said there appears to be more victims than what was previously reported.

"We came out with a new list," Iquiniña said, adding that there are 31 miners in the company's list who died in the cave-in.

Out of the 31 dead, 16 had been positively identified, while the bodies of 15 others are still inside the tunnel, Iquiniña said.

The JB management, however, has given up hope of finding survivors.

"Officially, we have 31 dead," he said. "Let's not talk of survivors here."

Iquiniña said he was confused with the initial list of dead and trapped miners following the company's investigation of the cave-in.

"I was wondering why they (dead victims) are not in the list of trapped victims," he said.

Edgar Salamo, OIC-Regional Director, said the DOE would come up with a new report on the number of deaths related to cave-in's area.

"It's not yet a final figure and we are expecting more casualties," he said. Vernon Bordadora in Manila, and Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Veggie farmers make a killing as prices soar

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE PAN-BUILT vegetable farmers made a killing during the holiday break as vegetable prices soared at the trading post.

Prices of eight commonly traded vegetables increased from P5 to P40 per kilogram with celery as the biggest gainer and potatoes, cabbage, as the biggest loser.

Celery, which normally costs from P7 to P12 a kilogram, went as high as P55 per kg, but potatoes went down to P5.4 from P10 a kg.

But agriculture officials said the gains are temporary as a glut in production is expected in the coming days.

They said, however, that farmers expect the prices to stabilize at a "marketable level" as they would like to preempt the chain effect of the implementation of the expanded Value Added Tax (VAT) law on the costs of farm inputs.

The price increase was also felt in Manila, prompting Vice President Noli de Castro to ask the Department of Agriculture on Wednesday to explain the surge in the cost of vegetables coming from the province.

"I told him that the price increase was expected because many farmers experienced on the production of cauliflowers for the holidays," said Palmira Asumnera, chief of the DA's agribusiness and marketing assistance division.

The farmers scrambled for a big and sure market for flowers during the week leading to Nov. 1, and vegetable trading found a healthy comparison, he said.

He said the volume of vegetables to flood the markets in the coming days, though, will show the effect of EVAT on the local vegetable industry, even if vegetables are VAT-exempt.

He said prices during the holiday craft, including a volatile market that was expected to suffer from expected increases in fuel prices and pesticide costs and the pervasive demand will settle. Norrie Lopez Espinosa in Tarlac

"We should not also forget that the cost of marketing services also claims much of the resources of farmers who have to transport their produce from their farms to the La Trinidad vegetable trading post here," he said. Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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Vienna	1415	2215
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London**	1505	2345

malaysia

INQUIRER Visayas

GOODFREDO Macia, executive director of the LEAP project, the second time in the vicinity in Barangay Sampaguita, Dagami, Leyte.

Turning coco water into wine in Leyte

By Vicente S. Libre
Dagami, Leyte

THE TURNING OF COCONUT water into wine in Leyte is far from being a miracle similar to the Bible's account of how Jesus turned ordinary water into wine during a wedding feast in Galilee.

The local brew tastes like imported red wine with a tinge of wild honey, tropical fruits and the popular native wine "tuba" (a aged tuba made of coconut sap.

"Vino Alfonso," the brand name of the coconut wine, has seen an instant hit in hotels and restaurants in the past and is producing a modest profit in its first year with lease in 1997-1998.

It disappeared from the market when its maker ran out of bottles and cash.

But now, the Australian government, through the Philippine-Australian Community Assistance Program (Pacap) of the Australian Agency of International Development (AusAid), has provided the Leyte Rural Advancement Program (LRAP), manufacturer of Vino Alfonso, a grant of P7,61,000 that revived the winery project.

LRAP is a nongovernment organization helping local farmers. Its programs include organizing cooperatives, training, various income projects, and enterprise development.

Goodfredo Macia, LRAP executive director, said the NGO buys coconut water and bottles from farmers, some of whom are also hired to do the bottling and labeling of the products.

He said the Pacap money was used for the purchase of new bottles and wine bottling machines and training of workers and for plant operation.

Coco water to wine

Macia said the technology used for the coconut red wine came from his younger brother Benito, a Bachelor in Science Physics graduate, who experimented on the idea of producing wine from coconut water in 1994.

"After about two years he came up with a percentage of dry wine and had it monitored at the Institute of Food Science and Technology at UP Los Baños (University of the Philippines Los Baños)," he said, "(and) the result was very good because its characteristic falls under class II wine (standard for wine)."

When his brother sold him of his experimentation and offered his findings to the LRAP, Macia said the NGO immediately accepted it for they "saw this as a potential additional income for farmers."

"First, Alfonso red cane wine is made from coconut water by adding coconut toddy as fermentation agent. For Bayas, mangoes and aroma, ripe wild banana, wild berries and grape pearls are added. The color is imparted by 'tanggi' or mangrove bark," Macia said.

The wine, it was learned, got its name from the Macia brothers' grandfather.

The LRAP set up the laboratory in Barangay Sampaguita in Dagami, Leyte and after the wine was tested at UP Los Baños, they tried marketing the product. The initial result was that wine liked its good taste but others preferred the original "Tuba-Alfonso." In 1998, however, the sales and wine had a chance to be promoted to a wider area.

"This time caught the attention of Governor Leyte Gov. Remedios Petilla who liked the taste and packaging. She encouraged us to introduce it to the national market. Petilla, as a way of helping us in the promotion, used it as a gift for visiting dignitaries," Macia said.

Aside from the red wine, the NGO was also producing coconut vodka that was made out of distilled coconut water.

In 1998 three wineries started to join the Eastern Visayas-sponsored Balikatd Trade Fair held in Metro Manila, and as part of their marketing promotion they let customers taste the product.

The wine business provided livelihood not only to male farmers but also to a group of farmers' wives belonging to the Comalibay multi-purpose cooperative based in Barangay Leyte, who supply the shavings and casing for bottled wine.

Macia, however, said the P600 was then just breaking even.

Bottle shortage

Everything was going on smoothly until the group ran short of bottles when in season, a used-bottle buyer, had stopped supplying them. They could not buy from bottling companies because these only sell in big volumes and the LRAP did not have the capital.

Winery and production slowed down and the group was unable to meet the orders of customers. Eventually, the winery had to close shop.

When the group learned that Pacap is financing livelihood projects, it submitted a proposal to the funding agency. After about a year of negotiations, Pacap released the grant last February.

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Edna Rose G. Dipasupil

Edsa repair work winds up Monday

By Terry V. Quismundo

REPAIRS AND CONSTRUCTION may expect to see the normal volume of traffic on Edsa next week, as repairs on the major thoroughfare are expected to be completed this weekend.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said motorists and motorists scheduling on parts of Edsa should be over in two days, based on the work schedule of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). "We are trying our best to do substantial and total resurfacing on Edsa by Monday," said MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, who has supervisory powers over the DPWH National Capital Region office that has been doing the repair work.

Repairing of portions of Edsa on both southbound and northbound sides began Friday evening, the start of the long break. Rehabilitation work between Ortigas and Balintawak remains caused traffic to move at snail's pace from Kalayaan to the Ayala tunnel the entire week.

Repairs also closed down the southbound and northbound lanes of Edsa from Shaw Boulevard to Sta. Mesa. On the south-bound side, repairs were also done past the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) station in Cubao and the Quezon Memorial Circle.

Fernando had called up the MMDA during the week to complain about the bottleneck. Agency officials explained that the second embanking was in bad condition during the holidays when there was less traffic on Edsa.

"We hope the public bears with us and understand that we really need these repairs, and that we had to take advantage of the long holidays to get the job done," said MMDA Deputy Chief Gene Lim-ta.

57 hurt in Navotas dawn fire; 300 houses razed

By Nancy C. Carvajal

FIFTY-SEVEN PEOPLE were hurt as a fire destroyed some 300 houses in Navotas at dawn yesterday.

Fire Marshal Insp. Gilberto Sumaya reported that the fire started at around 5:30 a.m. and was put under control at 7:40 a.m.

The cause of the fire that affected houses on Barog St. in Barangay Daang Hari was still undetermined, but there were indications it could have been set off by an unidentified lighted cigarette.

I admire Bunye for having more enough to submit his mistake. Apologizing for a mistake takes a lot of courage.

Likewise, I apologize for calling him 'pango' on television in reaction to his off-the-record statements. I was then reacting to protect my integrity as a journalist. If I didn't challenge Bunye's statement, my sources would no longer trust me with valuable information needed for my work as a columnist.

* * *

Since that Adina Bahao controversy came out in the Inquirer last Sunday, a lot of denials and recriminations has taken place.

MIG-CIDG said it would investigate Bahao who had gone on an indefinite leave of absence until the termination of the probe. But even before it could end its investigation, MIG-CIDG demanded a public apology from the President and the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) for "instigating the appointment" of Bahao for "inserting" he had put up had for a suspected terrorist.

The source of this red herring? And because it is the country's biggest radio-TV news network doesn't make its anchors, reporters and columnists infallible.

Yesterday, I received a tepid statement from General Senior who said that Bahao indeed helped him gain freedom. Jonathan Tiongco, a legal researcher who claims Bahao approached him to help General, said that the media [illegible] Bahao didn't pay half for General. However, Tiongco said, Bahao used his influence and reputation to set up guarantee for General's bail bond.

Tiongco said he coordinated the collection of money from some people—including the fine merchant said.

Most of the injured were men who suffered deep cuts on their heads and arms, said William Ignacio of the Bulingo Volunteer Group which gave first aid to the victims.

Lilipin Abrinan had a deep cut on his head from a piece of burning wood that fell on him as he tried to save his belongings.

Eastern said some women and children burned their arms as they fled the fire scene. Maryanne Bonifon said her family lost everything to the flames.

The Bangkulasi Elementary School had been turned into an evacuation center for the victims.

Penny Corpuz, a teacher at Bangkulasi and a Red Cross volunteer, said they would provide assistance to the victims.

RESIDENTS of Barangay Daang Hari retrieve the shacks they could still use to build new homes.

Julius Babao, a terrorist?

I ACCEPT FREELANCE assignments Ignacio Bunye's apology on his statement that my conversation with President Macapagal-Arroyo on ABS-CBN broadcaster Julius Babao was "off the record."

I admire Bunye for having more enough to submit his mistake. Apologizing for a mistake takes a lot of courage.

Likewise, I apologize for calling him 'pango' on television in reaction to his off-the-record statements. I was then reacting to protect my integrity as a journalist. If I didn't challenge Bunye's statement, my sources would no longer trust me with valuable information needed for my work as a columnist.

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ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

ing a Muslim congressman—for General's bail. A promissory to the amount of P200,000 cash—10 percent of the P200,000 bail set for General's temporary liberty—was put up for the General suspect's release. At first, Supreme Surety and Insurance Corp. would not accept the bail promise, Tiongco said, because "Muslims were notorious for jumping bail." That's when Bahao came into the picture. He acted as guarantor for the bail. If you ask me, posting a bail and acting as guarantor for the temporary liberty of an accused amount to the same thing.

Bahao had no business as a journalist to act as a guarantor for the bail that set General free. He should be objective in covering a controversial case. In other words, a reporter doesn't take sides in a controversial story.

But Tiongco said that Bahao had a personal motive for helping General gain his freedom. Bahao, he said, was a friend of Abdurad Santos, General's brother and the leader of the Rajah Sulaiman Movement (RSM). The RSM, according to military intelligence, was allied with the notorious Abu Sayyaf and international terrorist group Jemaah Islamiyah.

The RSM was allegedly responsible for the Valentine Day bombings in Metro Manila and other parts of the country and that of the Superferry attack that killed many passengers and wounded a lot more. Abdurad reported to sought Bahao's help in obtaining his brother's freedom. Bahao is apparently involved in command of the RSM.

Abdurad was recently captured by the military in Mindanao. At the time Bahao was helping General, Abdurad was still not captured, according to Tiongco.

People or countries that harbor, sympathize or help terrorists are also considered terrorists, in pursuance to President George W. Bush. So, since Bahao helped a terrorist, he should also be considered a terrorist.

NBI arrests 8 more Jaylo men

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI) raided yesterday the office of the Jobless Foundation into Illegal Recruitment Task Force (JOLIRTF) in Malate, Manila, and arrested eight more suspects.

Eight alleged illegal recruiters detained at the office were also "rescued." Arrested at the PNB Building, in the Rizal Memorial Compound on Adriatico Street, were Antonio Antonino Jr., Gerardo Quigol, Rolando Cortez, Noy Ayala, Fernando Sarillo Jr., Edgar Ignacio, Abelardo de Jesus and Ernesto Buenaventura.

Further, NBI Special Task Force chief Regional Director Reynaldo Esmeralda said they were preparing charges of conspiracy against 19 other "non-figured officers." Charges had also been filed against 11 PARTY agents.

The former PARTY head and now director of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Antonio Cope, Reynaldo Jaylo, another charged with unauthorized hiring of intelligence officers, was also being investigated for qualified bribery and robbery extortion.

On orders of Department of Justice acting state prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco, the raid, led by the Special Action Unit under Assistant Regional Director Pantaleon de Guzman, was meant to verify complaints about sub-human conditions of detention.

JAYLO

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SPORTS

Pacers, Suns clip foes

INDIANA'S Rik Åmmen soars for a reverse lay-up.

MIAMI—JERMAINE O'NEAL SCORED 27 POINTS, SIX OF THEM IN THE FINAL THREE minutes, and the Indiana Pacers beat the Miami Heat, 105-102, on Thursday despite blowing a 14-point lead in the second half.

Ron Artest added 23 for the Pacers, who have won 13 of their last 14 regular-season meetings with Miami.

Dwyane Wade had 31 points and 10 assists for the Heat, but his potentially game-tying 3-pointer carried out as the final buzzer sounded. Shaquille O'Neal had 18 points and an rebounds before leaving midway through the fourth quarter with a sprained right ankle.

Jermaine Bradley had 13 points, and Anthony Carruthers and Stephen Jackson each had 11 for Indiana. Udonis Haslem had 14 points while Antoine Walker and Alonzo Mourning each scored 12 for Miami.

Miami led early once, when Haslem made the game's first basket.

Suns 123, Lakers 112

At Los Angeles, Shawn Marion had 28 points and 11 rebounds and Steve Nash had 17 assists and 12 points as Phoenix held off the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Suns, who threw a 17-point lead to the fourth quarter before losing 113-108 to Dallas in double overtime on Tuesday to start the season, led by 17 with 8:1/2 minutes left in the game. But the Lakers got as close as three points before the Suns scored the game's final seven points.

James Jones added 17 points and Hedo Turkoglu scored 14 for the Suns.

Kobe Bryant led the Lakers with 30 points, seven rebounds and five assists. Lamar Odom had 21 points, 16 rebounds and eight assists, and Shandon Anderson matched his career high with 21 points.

The game was the Lakers' home opener, and their first regular-season game at Staples Center since Phil Jackson was retained as coach. They opened the season with a 99-97 overtime victory in Denver on Wednesday night. AP

Shaq twists ankle, listed as day-to-day

MIAMI, FLORIDA—GIANT CENTER Shaquille O'Neal left the game with a sprained right ankle with 6:35 remaining in Miami's 105-102 loss to Indiana.

The Heat drew within 79-88, on Jason Kapono's layup with 7:07 left in the game.

After a turnover on the other end, Antoine Walker missed a three-pointer and Shaquille O'Neal landed on Reggie Miller's foot—twisting his ankle—while grabbing the rebound.

"He's probably going to take some time the way he was walking on it," Miami coach Stan Van Gundy.

O'Neal, who scored 18 points, had to be helped off the court, but X-rays were negative and he is listed as day-to-day.

"He's a big guy and anytime he gets injured it's a lot of weight that goes down on it," Heat guard Dwyane Wade said. AFP

Stern wishes Artest well

MIAMI—COUNT NBA COMMISSIONER David Stern among those happy to see Ron Artest playing again.

The Pacers' forward, who Thursday helped the Indiana Pacers' game in Miami, the second day he served his planned in-game counseling his unruly pre-game suspension stemming from last season's brawl with fans at Detroit.

"I think he's a great player and I hope he has an All-Star season," Stern said.

Artest was ejected by Joey Sura from the Miami crowd. He broke crowd reaction won't fan him—but acknowledged he was cautious how they would be received when he visits Indiana.

"Indiana fans can't wait to see him," he said.

Artest was suspended for the final 73 regular-season games, plus the playoffs, after running in to the stands after a fan who he thought tossed a drink cup in his face late in the Pacers' game at Detroit in November 2004. AP

Roddick crushes Hrbaty

PARIS—TOP-SEEDED ANDY RODDICK FIRED 16 aces in beating Dominik Hrbaty of Slovakia, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 to continue to reach the Paris Masters quarterfinals on Thursday.

Roddick, trying to win his ninth title this year, believed he played close to his best level.

"I felt like everything was flowing tonight," Roddick said.

Also, third-seeded Monday Clavijodoux defeated Russian countryman Dmitry Tursunov, 3-6, 6-2, 6-3, with a sore right shoulder, and No. 6 Juan Carlos advanced his title hopes and Masters Cup ambition at the expense of No. 9 Thomas Johansson, 6-2, 7-6 (3).

"I served unbelievable again today," Ljubicic said. "I just feel like I'm serving from the service line normal—if the baseline. I feel like the box is huge, I can't miss it."

Ljubicic and Davydenko were in the hunt for the last two Masters Cup berths with Carlos Gaudio, the 2004 French Open champion. Seventh-seeded Gaudio rallied from 3-0 down in the opening set to beaten past Bobby Ginepri of the United States 6-4, 6-1. AP

Mauresmo grabs quarterfinal slot

MAURESMO: Confident

VILLANOVA, PENNSYLVANIA—TWO-TIME defending champion Amelie Mauresmo regrouped after falling to only a match in the last month, defeating Japan's Ai Sugiyama, 6-2, 6-4, to reach the Advanta Championships quarterfinals on Thursday.

Mauresmo, seeded third, improved to 9-1 lifetime in the tournament and 8-0 lifetime against Sugiyama.

"I felt really comfortable on the court today," she said.

The Frenchwoman, ranked fourth in the world, is preparing for next week's WTA Tour Championships in Los Angeles, trying to recuperate healthy and get back on track.

Russian Nadia Petrova, seeded sixth, defeated compatriot Tatiana Panova, 6-2, 6-2, and will face Martina Sucha in Friday's quarterfinals. AP

Zone eyes repeat as Battle of Courts gets going today

THE ZONE BADMINTON CLUB takes an unfamiliar role all the less as it opens defense of its crown against Quezon City Sports Club in the main event of the Battle of the Courts National Interclub Badminton Championships Sept 2 blasting off today at the Rockwell Tent in Makati.

Game time is 9 a.m. in an explosive showdown kicking off a daylong elimination among the 12 teams in the field which will be vying for the four quarterfinal berths in their respective groups.

It is actually a virtual rematch of last year's final as The Zone battles the marksmen of the same team they beat in winning the slumpy crushy last time.

Wading in the wings are two more title contenders, Cainta Athletes and Valle Verde, who have already gained free passage into the next round following the disqualification of Powerstrack due to an ineligible player.

Cainta and Valle, however, will still meet at 3 p.m. to decide who will take the top seeding in their group.

Joining the 14 qualifiers from Metro Manila which also includes Prestigitor, Family Badminton Center, Alabang Racquet Club, Mayai's Badminton Center and Alabang Country Club are the two winners of the regional eliminations held in Cebu and Davao.

The delegations from Pasticle of Cebu and Smash Mix Fitness Center arrived yesterday.

The field will be vying for the Inquirer Cup and an all-expense paid trip to the just-opened Hong Kong Disneyland.

"The Disney trip is part of the recreation, but it's not the main motivation," said Cainta Athletes team captain Luigi Abad Santos. "The main motivation is to be the champion of this very prestigious tournament."

The country's most prestigious interclub tournament is presented by Inoue Badminton, Mizuno and Smart Simply Amazing.

Citibank On-line, Trident, Cebu Pacific and Rockwell Center are the major sponsors, Toyota boasts the official vehicle, Caribe Travelers the official tour provider and Bellevue Manila, the official hotel.

Other sponsors are Wilson as official shuttlecock, Powerade, Hero, Vivo, Pinnacle Health Drink, Fitness and Spa, Jollibee, Thermos and Mirilla Control, Bolo and Catering, JOMPO, Dragon Fireworks, Rainbow Trading, L Tessarolla and media partners Solar Sports and Wow 91.1.

There will only be games today with the formal opening ceremonies and other side-events scheduled for tomorrow before the knockout matches.

Kicking off the opening rites is the parade of teams at 11 a.m. followed by the welcome speech of Philippine Inter Interscholastic Badminton Federation (Pibaf) president Alfredo Uy. Honorables who will also lead the prize presentation for the area champions and the runners-up together with national coach Marvin Asunera and other sponsors.

Anyways, who will lead the eventual campaign in the forthcoming Asian Games late this month, will also conduct a special clinic for kids at 12:30.

The quarterfinals is at 1 p.m., the semifinals at 4 p.m. and finals at 7 with the awarding set at 8:30.

Spectators young and old are all in for a big treat as they can see handsome prizes in the games the winner comes, watch master appearances by Jollibee, join a series of fun games and a special performance by the band Joy's Girls.

Elevators is also ranging in biggest Badminton sale.

The trip to Hong Kong Disney land will be a new big prize to win for The Zone whose members enjoyed a trip to Bangkok last year as inaugural champion.

Highlights of the game will be shown on a special coverage by Inter Sports.

MEMBERS of The Zone team with the Inquirer Cup

SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres

WHAT'S INSIDE

La Salle team honcho quits

School 'seriously considering' taking UAAP leave of absence

By Butch Cobo

"IT IS WITH GREAT PAIN THAT I HAVE TO INFORM LA SALLE that I am resigning effective immediately. I am the acknowledged head of the basketball team, and for that reason alone, I assume and accept full responsibility for the situation we are in today."

MANAGERS' TEARS: Terry Capistrano (left) embraces Mia Cambosa after the Green Archers' 2004 championship win.

La Salle Green Archers manager Terry Capistrano made this admission and announcement in his typically unsigned but persuasive, 4-point letter Wednesday, but was made public yesterday.

His letter of resignation, dated Nov. 2, was submitted to Br. Armin Luistro, FSC, president of De La Salle University, last Thursday.

Coming on the heels of Capistrano's visit over a report that La Salle was "seriously considering" filing a voluntary leave of absence from the UAAP for the rest of this season, and the whole of the next season, the "irrevocable" announcement was a bit surprising.

In a letter addressed to the La Salle academic community, executive vice president Br. Ceferino Quebengco said school officials will institute "appropriate measures" to put a decision on the eligibility issue[d] involving Jervi Archers.

In his letter, Capistrano thanked the academic for giving him the opportunity to serve for six seasons, from 2000 to 2005.

"I hope this move will help La Salle to move on," he told the Inquirer over the phone yesterday before finalizing his plans for leaving.

"I'm just sad that I'm leaving amidst the scenario," he added. "Given this team, I love my school, for whom I've expended resources—and I'm not only talking financially—to provide goodwill and a good image. I feel sad for everybody, most of all for our Varsity team that's also very dear to me. I have to cheer, inspire and support us."

Capistrano, president of TOE Ship Agencies Inc., an international shipping niche owner, was in Manila for the All Saints' Day break.

He was one of the reasons why the eligibility issue escalated into a huge controversy, he said.

In the statement issued by Quebengco yesterday, she said La Salle officials have "not as

Clavecilla seizes indv'l title as Pinoys triumph

SWEET, SWEET DOUBLE: Iggy Clavecilla.

PLAYING PETE'D TERRIFIC RESULTS UNDER TOUGH CONDITIONS, Team Philippines ran away with the 15th Asia Pacific Masters' meeting crown yesterday—with Iggy Clavecilla completing a sweep earlier with a romp in individual play—at the Shuyi Fountain Olden Lawns in Jiangmen, China.

Clavecilla shot a 2-over-par 73 to edge overnight leader Pete Davidson of Australia by one and leave the Philippines over 500 to rule the day and win after 54 holes for an 18-stroke victory over the hosts.

Clavecilla, who started the day one down on the Australian to 646/222.5, and Davidson shot a 76 after a 70 on Thursday for a 223 tally.

Tommy Manalo overcame back pain in his last five holes to churn out a 74, while Francis Gamboa and reigning RP Senior champ Rolly Mesa submitted 77's to round out Philippine scoring.

But the Garcia and Calma brothers did not count with scores and 90s, respectively.

The Filipinos were into the round reading by just six shots and were in no-see mood of the title, especially after Manalo pulled out after just five holes on Thursday because of worsening back injury.

Manalo, though, left 18 enough to play yesterday. Mesa came in 3rd 75th day first round just four just a shot of Mrs. Zealand's Ronald Simpson individual play.

"I'm so happy, it was really the pain," Manalo said the hooker in an overcast cal. "There was something in me that told me to play. The conditions were brutal and the course played tough."

"I was not a day for low scoring today, it was thought that anything close enough to par would be a good score and would be enough to win it."

The 56-year-old spin-based started the ball rolling for the Filipinos in an earlier flight, and Clavecilla, the jolly journeyman, completed the latches job in the second-longest.

The genius was also locked in incredible speed-and the humidity ready through for the field.

Iggy Clavecilla's control for the first time in three days and more who were really poised ground.

"Then did not want done," Garcia, a Philippine Sports Commission, said. "He gave it out all."

Earlier, the 1979 SEA Area champion who earned this year's second last year because of scheduled injury, was key of other new holes.

Wilaarg R. Castillo

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Magnolia loads up for big match

AS THOUGH THE OFFENSIVE MUSCLE they valued by several teams and All-Asia Kelly Williams was not strong enough, the Magnolia Wildcats have pushed two recent Elite Valencia and Ronjay Buenafe.

The drafted the Wildcats' offense will be put to the test when they face tradition Rain or Shine Elasto Painters in both teams gun for a second straight win at 4 p.m., today in the PBL Heroes Cup at the SGSGS Gym.

Magnolia (2-0) takes the reins for a 2-0 clean sweep from Welcoats Beautebag at 6 p.m., while Gerardo Gruno and Rodolfo Dilo try to recover from a pesting game losers when they look off the heavy Bora game 88-87 2 p.m.

Valencia, who with Ola Bumagay Gerbo heads to the Hills for one season, was unexpected to the Wildcats' increasing 70-50 win over Giesney Ginebra last Saturday.

The 5-foot-8 point guard finished with 17 points, supported by a 14-17 shooting from the field, including 3-of-3 from the three-point zone.

"Kim just stepped up," said Magnolia coach Jerry Bound. "The energy the players poured into the game was also tremendous."

While the Wildcats rookie showed in their first game, Kinis or Elasto standout are a real gamer packs from Jaja Tanghal and Kenjay Buenafe for an 11-11, 70-70 tie with Toyota Dile.

The Elasto Painters rocked by double digits most of the way before Tanghal and Buenafe teamed up in the final seven minutes of play.

Hapee (0-2) is another team that may have found a surprise contributor. Guard Mark Montero came cutting in his first game for a team that usually relies on the formidable duo of Gabby Espinas and Jayvee Cortez.

Montero, a Philippine College standout, debuted with 14 points on top of four assists and seven steals.

Montalvo, meanwhile, opened its campaign with a surprising 68-60 win against Cosmopolitan Insurance squad Thursday.

Alvin Caringal tried to score the last by quadruple scoring in the closing minutes, but The Arwels already felt the absence of former Most Valuable Player Jun Jun Intrada who has doubted to the pots.

Associates SC Report

How 'the mess' trapped La Salle team manager

IN HUDDLE

Beth Cuyos

IT'S QUITE IRONIC that Beth Cuyos, the quiet, very private, generally reserved girl who usually spends La Salle Green darkest room managed Tony Espinosa to be dragged into a controversy.

Ironically, that's where he found himself when the name of his wife Gina appeared in the papers to case of the incorporators of ABS Sports International, a sports management outfit headed by Los Angeles-based player agent Mike Gonzalez.

According to Tony, it was in August 2005, his first year as Green archers team manager, when he was approached by Mike proposing that they put up a company "to help organize tokens."

"At that time, we were focused only on golf and tennis. The idea was to help promising athletes technically and financially so that they could have the proper training and exposure in their sport. At that time, we had an eye on Dorothy Delasin because we need somebody so that she needed help to be able to compete in various international golf tournaments," Tony explained.

The group never got to formally because months after the company was launched—January 2005, to be exact—Gina and former DLSU swimming team captain Marco Iñigo disappeared from the scene.

"Especially last, supposedly my brother-in-law Gina's wife, Gina's sister, Gina and Marco DLSU swimming team captain Marco Iñigo disappeared from the scene.

"Especially last, supposedly my brother-in-law kicked in $15 of figures. When it came to this point, I became uncomfortable, being team manager of the lesser Archers," said Tony who has been holding the position for six years, during which he has steered three UAAP championships.

Tony's position as Green reborn the ire stories of ABS Sports International broke into the news.

He was very upset, because the formation of the company came out in a bad light, and not on what he had envisioned it to be.

Because was inflicted from his trusted he said. In fact, he wanted to thank the newly athletes. In fact, Mike Gonzalez admitted that Tony had put up the initial capital of the company which he later left to him Mike's share with the rest of the stock of it, so said that Tony spends an average of P4 million a year on the Green Archers.

"The documentary papers are with me, in case anybody's interested to look them out," said Tony who is president of ABS Sports Agency Inc., a company he owns.

But too many people know that Tony was a major player in La Salle. Being long almost the Capistrano family was found many years ago. He was in fact, a member of the 14-under basketball team of the school.

He admits, though, that his number was passion a track and field, where he excelled in college at La Salle Hill.

So where does basketball come in? I asked Tony.

"That, my friend, is my other of life. The excitement, the adrenalin rush I get from it is incomparable," he said.

Because like I've spotted a can of worms. Some I never knew about, on the aspects Angeles, Gonzalez and Mike Gonzalez to, which now pleading for interests in the NCAA. For heavy getting heads on rulers collegiate eagers whose college eligibility is also questionable.

This could in particular, seen by the former Green manager of a UAAP squad, caught my attention.

"At that time, I was contemplating on having this respective eager, who turned out to be an MVP talent investigated, because there was an appeal of his high school diploma," he said. "Appeal really, the school of this eager must've gotten wind of my plan because they beat me to the draw. To my surprise, they suddenly presented a high school diploma issued by an obscure school in Central Luzon."

No wonder, April eager Ronald Tolentino didn't have any of intermittence in the San Lorenzo Ruiz senior at the Palaro Region park in Quezon City.

Tolentino did not model for San Lorenzo but for Bernard Bonifacio's protest schools who were to those John Prentice Institution in 2005.

Tolentino is now in San Lorenzo Lorenzo second Filipino start," explained PBA operations director Richie Santos, a devout catholic.

IBC 13 commissioner Dennis Monsipe, who also called my attention about the tournaments shortly, said Bernard Bello was not able to be with Mike Gonzalez and Mike Gonzalez to, which now pleading for interests in the NCAA. For heavy getting heads on rulers collegiate eagers whose college eligibility is also questionable.

"This happened in Cagayan some ago. I still feel he said the point was accused of pressuring the children, shattering long ago because he didn't want to leave the position. They never both killed," said Dennis.

The point video was killed shortly before a grand national tournament. Before the tournament, Tolentino called "If Tony" when he was still playing in the PBL.

Express stun Pals; Giants rip Realtors

MALIKSI gets elusive rearward by Ja'Intoda and Danish

By Jane Navarro

SHAWN DANIELS SCORED ON A PUTBACK with 2.4 seconds left to cap a 20-2 first-period scoring 86-84 Commerce Talk 'N Text last night in the first Bisig Coffee PBA Unites Conference at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City.

Converted by Jeo Taulava shot-strict, Danielson's did the ball over to Wesley Arbolado on the side line. Arbolado passed the ball to John Pinto (who rose to the Express finally put one over the Phoenix Fire Extinguishers.

"We can brag about this," said tired coach Bo Rivera after the Express recovered from a 5-a-rebuilding debut should by Talk 'N Text during their initial outing.

Daniels' heroics paved the way for the 22 to reach its third in seven games and send the Express with another potential contender Bisig.

Rivera and the Express recently dropped a pair of double-overtime thrillers against the Alaska Aces and the Sta. Lucia Mighty Sardines.

In the second game, Pinoybook rebounded this time, 108-80, for its sixth win in eight games.

The Realtors fell to 2-6.

Meanwhile, Red Bull's Mick Pennisi escaped suspension but was slapped a P10,000 fine by the league for triggering the near-brawl that erupted during the Alaska-Red Bull game Wednesday night.

Pennisi and Don Allado to the floor, triggering the skirmish that saw Allado slapping Enrico Villanueva and Calvin Cruz of Red Bull hitting the Alaska power forward in retaliation.

Allado and Cruz were fined P10,000 each on top of a one-game suspension for figuring in the altercation.

The scores:

PINOYBOOK

ARBOLADO—Pinto 17, Daniels 16, Jacobson 15, Abuda 10, Barroca 10, Tabuk 6, Gonzales 5, Asi, Gonzales 3, Pinto 2, Bautista.

TALK 'N TEXT 86—Castro 20, Taulava 12, Pinto 9, Ildefonso 8, Cruz 7, Asaytono 5, Arboleda 4, Asi, Gonzales 3, Pinto 2, Bautista.

Quarters: 20-18, 41-42, 71-67, 86-84.

TALK 'N TEXT 86—Castro 20, Taulava 12, Pinto 9, Ildefonso 8, Cruz 7, Asaytono 5, Arboleda 4, Asi, Gonzales 3, Pinto 2, Bautista.

PAINTBOOK 108—Cruz 20, Ildefonso 15, Castro 13, Asaytono 12, Arboleda 8, Asi, Gonzales 3, Pinto 2, Bautista.

Quarters: 20-18, 41-42, 71-67, 86-84.

Laurente nails Paba super bantam crown

REMATO LAURENTE OF THE Philippines stopped Kwesi Paba in the second round to win the super bantamweight title Saturday, Associated Press (PAC) reports.

The Bohol-born Laurente, fighting out of the Bohol Elastic Bubble, was not strong for the he as in the last the Kwesi with a variety of shots before finishing him away with the left hook opening round.

Laurente pressed over Kwesi catching him through the ropes with a volume of blows before referee Gudeon Pranobud at Thailand stopped the fight after 2.2 seconds of the second round.

In the main event, Japan-based Somsakdan Jaiger "El Niño de Oro" Linares, managed by Ambito Honda of Tokyo Promotions, stopped Jonathan Sor Tichkaor of Thailand in the opening round.

The 20-year-old Linares, dubbed a younger version of Oscar De la Hoya, improved to 19-0-1, 11 KOs.

In his previous fight in Yokohama, Linares dominated Filipino Ryan Dilumpo who then handled in the hospital after complaining of dizziness and severe hand aches.

Dilumpo is now back in the Philippines, well and fully recovered, back in Angeles City, and thirsty

La Salle team honcho quits

From page A11

resist" in his search for truth."

He said the university has already taken initial steps for reform including "changes in admission policies" particularly with the "submission of bank records of applicants."

La Salle recently announced that players Mark Lastimosa and Dominic Canlas-Ili submitted fake equivalency test results to gain eligibility to the school and to the varsity team.

Hontiveros-Baraquel's decision to leave Benilde and Cardinal Rosales Philippine Educational Theatrical Test (PETT), which is a test taken mostly by out-of-school youths to get into college. The two archers' PETT certificates submitted to La Salle turned out to be fake.

In the letter, Quebengco also addressed the calls of some seniors who "would like more heads to roll." He stressed that the investigation has not been closed and school officials are "more than willing to accept the evidence of wrong doing of any group...including the coaching staff in some sectors have implied."

Based on the probe of La Salle's fact-finding committee, the university tagged current men mentors Timothy Salgado and controversial committee Raul Lucero as the same officials who helped secure the players' false documents.

Although it seemed the case hit a dead end after Salgado and Lucero denied the allegations, Quebengco noted that several actions have already been taken to pursue the case.

Among the actions are the formation of a committee to recommend changes in the university's "sports policy and protocol on holding the coach responsible" . With a report from Aurora M. Pijuan

SWIMSUITS ON CHAMPIONS: Members of the College of St. Benilde team conduct a beach volleyball demonstration in New Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities (NAIT) in Tanauan City recently for volleyball players and coaches of different schools in Batangas. New Asia Institute is strengthening its sports and welfare student development programs. "We New Asia Institute are anxious to Mary Grace Corpuz, Sonia gil locality voted two locality body. That's why we can now seriously go rounding our sports and athletics programs," said NAIT president Jacinto Ibobo Jr.

200 riders set out today in Cycling Search last leg

THE ILOCOS SUR PROVINCIAL capital of Vigan comes to life today when close to 200 riders scramble for honors in the final leg of the Cycling Search International selection.

Some of the country's top cyclists will be in Vigan to challenge the overall honors and medal of Cheryl Antonio of the four-leg circuit finished by Sun Mig Light, Bypass Cusino Hotel, TCL-Sakai and Metro Transport.

They were part of a huge contingent that gathered over to Vigan yesterday giving themselves time to rest before the gruelling grind around a 2.2-kilometer circuit through the monuments of the heritage city city.

Outlined to welcome the C2I extravaganza were Ben Lim "Chariot" Gregorio and Ronald Singson. The festival is also hosted by PCSO, Manila Assemblies, Jollibee Sports and Holden Sporting Edition Winery.

Vigan Mayor Jeremias Medina is expected to flag off the riders in front of the provincial capitol today.

Pacquiao endorses two RP title fights tonight

By Solven L. Lagumbay, Correspondent

TWO FILIPINO TITLE BELTS WILL BE on the line tonight in the main events of the "Fight for Love" card at the New San Andres Sports and Civic Auditorium in Manila.

The clashes could unseat 6- winning knockout record champion Lamaro Ilo, pressed's legal battle to collect an unpaid purse, but Ilo still has long of Filipinos rooting for him.

Ilo's Celebrity Boy Emmanuel Pilot, who is putting up the show together with close friends, and claiming somebody's weight in that fight hasn't all yet since their opponent's worth considering the quality of the main fight.

Headlining the show is the rivalry between RP lightweight king Reynaldo Hamada, who takes his crown for the third time against Gamigana named fighter Dennis "Thunder" Bellido, ranked No. 2 among the country's 135-pounders.

The co-feature will showcase RP super bantamweight Jerry Pacquiao who defends against Celso Bangcud in another 12-rounder.

Manalili came in at 134 lbs while challenger could tallies 134kilo against Dennis at 133 lbs yesterday. Both Bacolod and Dasmariñas natives at 11 a.m.

The Bellido-Manalili fight as well as the other bouts, will be aired over at UHF-4 starting 10:45 tonight.

Fighting up the show are explosive bantamweight Mervin Gerete of Cebu against Roy Mabunda, 8-0-0KO. Eddie Dagocoy of Davao Bernard Bangoy (unsurprisingly, 8-0-0KO) Dennis Jamillano against Robert Bellido (light flyweight). It also, Bert Babilonia versus Abner Abner fight flyweights, 8-0-0KO. Tommy Tejada against Ernesto Ernesto (lightweight, 8-0-0).

Que, 3 other Pinoys make Double A cut

PATONG, THAILAND—ANGELO QUE FIRED a 3-under-par 70 Friday, leaving three other Filipinos in the narrow chase of the inaugural $500,000 Double A International Open here.

Counting his first round 69, Que posted a 7-under 139 total, five shots off Indian pacesetter Shiv Kapur (66-136) and three strokes up on countryman Gerald Enriquez (70-142).

Filipinos Cookie Agulto and Jeremy Bokingo also made the cut with a 74 and 75, respectively, at the St. Andrews Hill (2000) Golf Club (.pn) with a 144 while Emiliano barely survived at 147.

The lone Filipino casualty was Jimmy Lazaro, who scored a 77-74 for a 9-over 149.

Que, coming off his earlier, rib-related woes at home, including the monstrous par six 879-yard No. 4, against bogeys on Nos. 3, 9 and 11 to share fifth place with Australia's Justin Hurter (71). New Zealand's Kenny Wallace was also at seven under but was unable to play his last three holes due to darkness.

Sunday, on the other, rib-soothed front is Que, nine 3B with a backside 32, highlighted by four straight birdies from the 1.0ft.

Thailand's Thanomsoon Inwai carded a 66 to nyall Kapur, the 2002 Asian Games gold medalist, by three shots at 137 and more ahead of compatriot Thongchai Jaidee (71) and host land's Siamon Yimsi (68), both at 138.

ASIAN F3 DUEL

Sy quicker than Indon in practice

AHEAD: Tyson Sy's plans is to "avoid doing stupid things" during the race.

DRIVING UNDER OVERCAST SKIES, TYSON SY LOGGED TWO OF THE FASTEST times in three practice runs so far, raising hopes he is in tip-top shape for the qualifying session tomorrow that will determine the grid positions for round 11 of the Asian Formula Three Grand Prix at the Guangan Racing Circuit.

Using old tires like the rest of the pack, Sy clocked 1:17.615 minutes and 1:27.394 in the first two practice runs Thursday at the 3.4-kilometer (8K) track. Yesterday he timed 1:29.747 as he geared up for the battle for the top grid position today with chief rivals Amando Mikaela of Indonesia, the series leader, and third-running mister Motohiro of Great Britain.

"My car is fine," said Sy, 18, the lead driver of Speedtech Asia who is bidding for another podium double in the last two rounds of the season-hopping series. "We are still fine-tuning our setup and hopefully it will become better tomorrow."

Mikaela, of Nation Racing with Thierry Lord, clocked 1:29.695 in the first practice run yesterday after doing 1:27.870 and 1:65.861 Thursday but was hardly tested by Sy's show-of-force.

"I am here to finish the race and make the fans and my sponsors happy," said the Indon ace, who leads the series with 127 points. "I will avoid doing stupid things (during the actual race)."

The last-run racers, sponsored by Adidas MOBIL PLDT myDSL, Bonaire Shirts, Yokohama Tires and Lime Hotel, will be seen live on Studio 23, with the first race on at 10:30 a.m. and the second race from 2:30 p.m. to 4 o'clock. Racing enthusiasts can log on to www.asianf3.net and www.mpsgp.net for regular updates.

Sy is running second with 101 points and not even a sweep of rounds 11 and 12—worth a combined 40 points—will assure him of the crown, for the Filipino-young gun to foil Mikaela, the Indon must not finish higher than fifth in both races.

Mikaela, driving for iSuli Ueda Kinetic PCD1, is running third with 100 points and is very much in the running. Like Sy, however, his only chance to win the crown is for Mikaela and the Filipino ace are to flop out in the top five of both races.

Another young Pinoy hope, Paolo Pefia, 18, of Team Goddard-Mitsuoli Team Asia, clocked 1:29.306 yesterday after doing 1:28.682 and 1:29.130 last Thursday.

"The weather is hot and the track seems to be having more grip, which is showing my car" said Pefia, who is running fifth with 75 points, four behind Athiyt O'Hara of MacD'Dela Kinetic PCD1.

Pint-sized dynamo born to play big-time

By Phaeng S. Cuello

"I'D ARGUE BUT I'D BE INTIMIDATED. SHE'S A tiger—didn't miss—to sit down her 16-year-old daughter Sam.

"There's one a time that she wants to stay put in the house," Mama Pinky said. "Sam is always on the move, always wanting to train and work it out."

Sam is Samantha Camille Sinovas—the second youngest member of the Philippine women's football team. And it's definitely an enforcing-ing to do donor a person whose athlete is.

Sam's football's starting right full-back for the existing 23rd Southeast Asian Games is also a blackbelt in taekwondo and a Muay-Thai point guard with La Salle-Zobel's high school girls' QAA squad.

"Football is Sinovas's every heart," Sam said to explain why she decided to try out for a berth in the newly-planned-out squad of basketball as a spot in the BF taekwondo team.

"I feel like I was born to play football, though I enjoy the other sports as well," Sam added.

Sam was born in Fremont, California and holds a dual passport. She was raised in California and returned to the country in 1999.

Her love affair with football started when she was eight years old. The city police department in Milpitas, where her family stays, sponsored kiddie soccer tournaments then. There, Sam played against bigger and heftier foes.

The 4-foot-11 bunchal always'boss-mistaken-for-the-field, but she never hesitated in giving the sports a shot, even if she was developing taekwondo honors and was already wearing bumps in public courts. To her credit, she made the national football team easily.

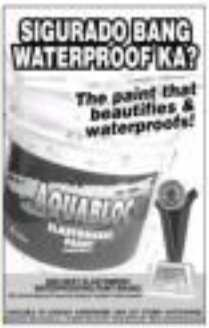
Her touch-mount with the BF squad prompted Sam, the first to become one of the team's managers, not only to cheer full support as her daughter, but help the team in other aspects as well.

Sam, a consistent member of the SLS-C's honor roll, dedicates each shepherd Saul Madrid Sidhesh Bahrain Carlos and spends a lot of time copying the moves of the superstar of Spain's La Liga.

"Sam likes it Carlos as she completes football layout," said Sam who, like the rest of the BF squad, has been quarantined for the last two weeks at the La Salle grounds in Dasmariñas—away from family and friends—in train for the SEAG.

"It's a sacrifice we players all have to make," she said. "But the camaraderie in the team is so good that we see each other as family now. We want to be team-petitive in the SEAG and if doing this would help, then we have no problem."

Her sites with the Philippine football team will not end after the coming SEAG. Sam wants to be a part of the first-ever BF women's squad to get invited to the Asian Games, hopefully, by next year in Qatar.



Del Rosario overcomes odds, claims 2nd place

FAR, R. Del Rosario is ripe to the finish ahead of the pack in the qualifying race. He overcomes biggest three-third-place finishes

THE PHILIPPINES' IAN DEL Rosario overcame insurmountable odds to post an impressive first runner-up finish in the 2005 World Jet Ski Championship in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, recently.

The 28-year-old Del Rosario finished a strong third in both hydrostatic races to claim second place overall in the Super Stand-up 1,200-Open class that was topped by Thailand's back-to-back world champion Thanwan Garfish.

Del Rosario, a two-time champion in the local Petron National Jet Ski Series, created quite a stir aboard his Yamaha ski in the tough 35-rider international field that also included 2000 Expert Limited world champion Eric Francis, Super 800cc world titleholder Jamey Christy and former US champion Billy Donovan.

Brooking the No. 7 position for the qualifying round, Del Rosario endured the choppy waters and grabbed the lukewhot to finish first, 30 seconds ahead of Christy.

The Filipino seized the lead using a down-hulled hour that looked inferior in turn-overvision in the long and narrow Kinematic STS-Jet of Christy and his other main rivals.

The third race saw Del Rosario figuring in a widely-discussed battle with Thanwan and Francis down to the last leg. Thanwan eventually won the race, with Francis finishing second and Del Rosario just a whisker behind in third place.

"Finishing runner-up is already big honor," said Del Rosario. "It got the applause from the crowd was really overcome. I felt so blessed with my performance there."

Francis proved to be the biggest thorn on Del Rosario's side in the first race, though. The Filipino racer, who dipped to fifth after a tactical error at the start of the race, finally managed to move into position to catch front Philippe of Australia at second spot when backmarker Francis jumped the speeder's rode for an easier lap. Del Rosario wound up third in the race won by Thanwan.

Canadian Ryan Watson of Windsor, Ontario, finished third overall, while Jared Moore of South Africa and Christy settled for fourth and fifth, respectively.

Francis, 14th in the first race, took sixth place overall.

Del Rosario's four combined finishings at the four-race Yamaha rider All four riders in the overall Top 5 rode Kinematic.

1,500 bets expected for 10-mile race

THE COUNTRY'S ONLY FIRM-SANCTIONED 10-Mile (16K) race will be held tomorrow at the Cultural Center Complex ground in Subic City with more than 1,500 runners expected to participate.

The 17th edition of the annual footrace will be fired off by top officials of the sponsoring Takashi Philippines, Inc. at 6 a.m.

Vying for the men's division top awards are veteran marathoners Reynaldo de los Reyes, Bernardo Decamino and brothers Edwin Lopez and Ronald Lopez.

The drawoff rider is expected to be ruled by Maryclad Mitala. Picked to crowd Mitala for the top female award are veteran marathoner Lilia Bellin and Lizzie Rimando and a group of Mapua City runners headed by Rosalie Bellotin.

A total of P50,000 in cash and trophies are at stake for the top five winners in the 10-mile race while runners and friends gift packs await the top finishers in the 5K fun run and the 5K Multiforum.

All finishers will receive exclusive Takashi running shirts and a bottle of Takashi.

A special trophy also awaits the opening group with the most number of entries. In fact, the Marlaen Club is leading the contest. Registration for the event ends today.

US-based Filipina arrives for ITF tilt

ZALAMEDA

THE SPEARHEAD OF THE THIRTEEN PHILIPPINE tennis squad in the Southeast Asian Games is in town to see action in the Chevrolet Holden ITF Circuit at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center starting tomorrow.

United States-based Ilsa Angela Zalameda, who is ranked No. 1012 in the world, is seeded No. 6 in the tournament behind Lyudmila Bovina of South Korea (697), Rebecca Jung of Taiwan (706), Lee Jieun of South Korea (741), Pichitra Thongchoi of Thailand (762) and Chen Yi of Chinese Taipei (778).

Zalameda, turned 2004 Player of the Year by the Los Angeles Times, was born on the 23 to 01 plies parents Rolla and Angie. She won a quarterfinalist in two $10,000 tournaments in Indianapolis and Baltimore last year. She also reached the doubles semifinals in Kalamazoo, New Mexico and Baltimore.

The University of California Los Angeles standout arrived in the country last Wednesday.

Each leg of the Holden ITF Circuit offers actual cash purse of $10,000, aside the singles champion receiving $1,000 and the runner-up $1,000.

Prizes in the doubles are $600 for the champion and $500 for the losing duolist.

The first leg will begin tomorrow with the singles qualifying round. Signs are scheduled from 11 noon to 6 p.m. today at the office of the Philippine Tennis Association.

Official seeds are Bovina, Kim Hae-Jung (872), Rebecca Nicholas Khan (862) and Georgia Stoup (804), Taiwanese Chen Li-Ling (870) and Norwegian Nina Ruud (990) and Lim Jee-Hi (994).

Doraie De Guzman Alan Asreal and Anja Suzanne Prinz are the oldest Filipinos competing in the ITF Grand Slam Development Pound event.

The 26-year-old lady netter lately migrated to Los Angeles, won one singles and two doubles titles in the ITF Jamaica held in Manila last month.

Twenty-two-old Asreal, singles and doubles champion in the Quezon International Open last May is both 14th a three-month stint at the Ilsa Bruno Tennis Academy in India.

75 fights up today at LP Coliseum

SIXTY-FIVE PAIRS are scheduled today as the cream of the crop boxers and fighters figure in thrilling one-on-one duels in a special kickoff day 6:00 p.m. at the Luz Pilipino Coliseum. One of the highly awaited showdowns to be staged sponsored by Sequential Consultant 2000 calls Patrick Aubrero, veteran of the Big Event living the the recently, exclusive Sandalwood Hotel Ilocano Lagoo Sabertooth-to-toe from leading grocers Bb COMP BOX and PCAP competitors this grand occasion, said Bobby Sport Boxing Director. Meanwhile, regular bantingers are also scheduled at LP Coliseum Monday & Tuesday (1st tingalists, call 8573-1385 or 851-8916).

3 share PCAP Staglighter series title

LAWYER MERVYN G. Lumbao and Elmer Cardos of Pampanga chancellor PCAP Staglighter of the Year 50k 3rd week at Makati Cabinets. Villarreal's VP Angeles Executive Center Bowlero last Saturday and Sunday for 3 Staglighter Series title.

'Sakbakan' retains big backer

THE MIKULA SAGA has National Stag Derby, the biggest and most prestigious stag derby in the country, has again Topped Wheeled Power Foods as co-top sponsor for this year's edition. "It's an honor to be a part of Sakbakan," stated Tuyuhitmin's Jay Mendoza. Meanwhile, Sakbakan Chairman Rommel Manalo "Bok" Sakbakan has independent spearhead meeting today, and this part of coaching/sponsors to put together the "Sakbakan" Reindeers at this season's "The derby's best 5-a-side tournament" on 18 Sheffield's Coliseum on Nov. 12 and 14.

Expanded Poker King tilt gets going

THE FIFTH LEG OF THE POKER KING Challenge which gets going today at Casino Filipino in Tagaytay City has been expanded to enable more poker enthusiasts to vie for the prizes at stake.

Poker Club of the Philippines president Ben "Butch" Gatchco said that two elimination rounds will be played, with the first group starting today at 12 p.m. and the second group playing from 12 p.m. up to 12 a.m.

Prizes worth more than P1 million each will be awarded to the winners and guests PCP Philippine Gaming Corp., Jack Daniels, Miller Genuine Draft Beer, Bicycle Playing Cards Sin Pipes, Hotel and Casino, Ralph Pilar, and MyRestaurantSuites.com Internet Investment Portfolio.

Gatchco said the legs top three winners will join other previous leg winners in the Grand Finale to be held later this year.

The previous champions are Jessie Ong of Cebu City, Nicole Hahn of Angeles City, and Mondi's Perry Caldong and Alvin Carbonero.

For inquiries, call the Secretariat at 427-9595 or visit www.PokerClubofthePhilippines.com for details.

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FOUR BROTHERS
They come home to bury their mother...and her killer.

Hortaleza, Lucas dominate 1st Tour of Matabungkay

INDIVIDUAL TIME TRIAL champions Rose Hortaleza and Marlo Lucas completed a double in their respective categories by defending the 90-kilometer road race of the 1st Pamalhin Tour of Matabungkay recently.

Hortaleza, a 43-year-old businesswoman, clocked 2:14:43 to top the 40 to 49 age group of the event's division and pioneer Du Wan Arum in the team championship. Rubbery Rosary-AFTSSA placed second in the team race.

The Sweetheart duties Gamefound Lucas clocked 2:27:33 and was customary winners in the distaff side as she managed to keep up with the male cyclists even in the hilly part of the course.

Hortaleza and teammate Kiko Valenzuela broke free at the start/finish area and kept a 5-kilometer gap from the second group. Valenzuela wound up second with a time of 2:16:21 while Elrich's Boys Contingent finished third in 2:17:39.

In the 19-34 road race, individual entry Michael David of Tagaytay City won line honors in topping the 20 to 29 age group with a time of 2:33:47, the same clocking submitted by cameron up Arnel Arao and fellow San Pablo.

The 35-and-above category was won by John Wilbir Jose, who clocked 2:18:23, followed by teammate Ray Gerard 2:18:55 and individual entry Hanson Corneta 2:20:36.

Alabat's Ronald Cuevas topped the 50-to-59 age group in 2:34:47, edging Ibu Peter's Lloyd Antona, who also posted the same time. Third place went to Toots Ocsan, also from Ibu Peter, in 2:36:20.

The 20-year-old David, who also won the Tour of Batayan earlier this year, said that he found out in the last lap to keep going it all in the sprint to the finish.

Posters at the awarding ceremonies held at Matabungkay Beach Hotel and Resort were Pamalhin brand manager Rod Cuevas, hotel GM, Rico Villena, JC Levine of the Levine Yacht Brokerage and local officials of the town of Nasugbu, Tay, Lian, Calatagan and Balayan. Other sponsors were Action and Fitness, Polar Heart Rate Monitor, Xtasis Promtec, Fitness first, TRIX, and Giant.

Shootout looms in Nokia golf finals

EXPECT A SPIRITED CLIMB OVER top honors in this year's Nokia invitational golf finals with Cain Salazar, Manager Delights and BF Homes all primed up for the 26-hole championship slated Nov. 7 and 14 at the Canlubang golf complex in Laguna.

Eight other teams, the runners-up and third placers in the 26 hole series of golf rites held in the other five legs of the finals all lined up in an attempt to spoil the top four teams' bid for the crown in this annual event sponsored by Nokia.

The hang bands after the tough elimination phase has given the Salazar, Manager and BF Homes their skills in the tournament to be placed using the Stableford scoring system.

The runners-up in the four-personal tournament - Loyola Grand Villas, Hillsborough, Avengelia and 88 Homes Mix-play in Division A while the Dasmariñas 8 cars of third placers is made up of Chico Riverside Golf Club and Tierra Vista, San Lorenzo, La Mesa and Tahanan.

Under the rules of the 72-holer, 9 rounds each format event, all teams in the lower division also have a shot at the championship.

The first round of the two-stage finals will be played at the south course of the Golfcliff complex on Nov 7.

The final 36 holes of the event, backed by 207 Runaway Double International Corp., Pioneer Insurance and Surety Corp., BJ Marbel International, Inc., Shiseido skin quencher and Phuzzi golf shirts, will be played at the north course on Nov 14.

The event among village golfers in the metropolis also stokes a fourtea blaze shared on a hole-in-one bet, scored high by Loyola, executive vice president of Loyola Development Corp., the developer of the Bureau Veritas Nature Park and Country Club in Silang, Batangas.

Villareal-Banaag tops Chairman's Cup by 5

SHERRIE ROY VILLAREAL AND VIC guest partner Ernest Herang came through with a combined net of 7-under par 137 to emerge the overall champion in the recent Chairman's Cup at the Sherwood Hills Golf and Country Club in Trece Martires, Cavite.

Villareal and Banaag won by five strokes over two other teams, Paul Siang Shark Chee and Tony de Leon-Rhonda Ayala, who settled for the runner-up spot in the 18-hole event held in honor of club chairman Ildefonso Siy.

Siang and Chee aggregated 142 to beat the tandem of Lim Ok, the outgoing Sherwood Hills champion, and Andy Magbiray by three strokes for the Chairman's prize.

Dr Leon and Ngala shot scored a 143 and finished three strokes clear of Weng Yongjing and Chu Hui Lan in Distance II.

Major sponsors of the event were Golfmen Club Leisure Management, Inc., Golfmen Resort Management, Sihe Bird, Cash, Information Professionals Inc., Wilson, Sport Specialists, Inova, Cargo Mate, Sense Cable Industries and Plastic Surgery Center, Atlantic Pipeline, Pilipinas Telesonic, Asia-Pacific Golf Corp. and Contact Chiropractic Center for Life Improvement.

Makati Golf Club owner Jay Young Ang, partner of Siang Angeles, won the grand raffle prize of a Pilmo Drop Bed 500 mattress.

Solenpatra, who was partnered by Antiliopan George Samaniego, handed out the trophies to the winners.

Jojo Binay Cup Invt'l slated at Alabang Nov. 7

PERSONAL, COLLEAGUES, SENIOR EXECUTIVES of major corporations and Makati City officials will gather at the Alabang Golf and Country Club on Nov. 7 at 6 a.m. for the 2005 Jojo Binay Cup Golf Invitational.

This year's edition coincides with the founding of the JCBinay Foundation, the main beneficiary of the golf tournament.

Prominent business firms have signified their support to these programs led by Smart Communications.

Other sponsors are Ski Investments Corp., Bicon Corp., Land Bank of the Philippines, Alaska, Mckenzie Insurance, American Eye Center, MD Maritime Corp., Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Philippine Savings Bank, Waste Management, Nice Rides, Sycamore Drug Corp., Sycamore Laboratories, R.T. Medicines & Sons, Omni Security Investigation and General Services, Inc., EC Servol, Inc., Mercantile Riches Phils. Risk Services, Inc., STI, Telespan, Inc., RS Concepts, Inc., Wows, Salt Sun Shipping Agency Co., Inc., Abenson.com, Inc., Pepsi-Cola Products Philippines, Inc., Phil. Health Care Educators, Showwinds Cone Corp., Ad Aide, Inc., People Support, Newport Shipyard & Engineering Corp., Tarmiland Corporation, Indigo Industries, Inc., Powerbe, Inc., Hillmart's Const. Corp., M.I.S. Constr., and individual donors.

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More local firms registering trademarks, brands, IPO says

By Raissel W. Domingo

MORE LOCAL FIRMS ARE REregistering their own brands and trademarks, according to the Intellectual Property Office.

IPO data showed that it received 12,999 applications for brand and trademark registration for 2005, of which two of three were filed by local firms.

IPO Director General Adrian S. Cristobal Jr. said this was a sign local companies "are more interested in protecting their rights." Foreign applications for trademark registration made up about 3% percent of the total.

Six of the total of 39,000 applications have received 10-YEAR trademark applications, which locks up the investments of an aprroval that has kept up to the past five years."

CRISTOBAL

Cristobal said.

"This is a sign that there is a lot of business activity in the market for Filipino firms and even foreigners are designs and logos," he said. "We hope to see that kind of change in our patent application rates."

Cristobal explained that trademarks could increase unit sales and ensure customer loyalty, spur revenue through licensing and even provide a foundation for a franchise network.

He said the lack of so-identifying brands can affect the value and marketability of Philippine products and services abroad.

For one products to flourish and find markets abroad, we need to develop consistent and commercially viable marks and brands with an international appeal, but with a national identity," Cristobal said.

To help promote this, the IPO chief said the agency would simplify procedures for registering trademarks, since the quality of trademark examinations, and maintain the integrity of the trademark system.

Cristobal said IPO was also eyeing about its current turnaround time for trademark registrations of four years and eight months to nine months by 2007.

"We will also make our services more accessible to local businesses outside Metro Manila by making Trademarks Online operational, so that operators of small and medium enterprises need not come to Manila to register their trademarks," he said.

"One of the new missions of IPO is to mobilize knowledge and technology to increase productivity and enhance the competitiveness of Philippine industries, especially SMEs and value-creation," he added.

October inflation steady at 7%

VAT HERE: VAT has claimed the attention of vehicle owners but has gone largely out of the various rallies playing Malacañang. But now that the All Saint's Day holiday week is upon Pagsin, some readers have been a better excuse for joining their circumferences at P200 a bike. Readers say, however, that strawberry prices should go down by Christmas when the popular berry is in season.

—ALEX FLORES

Justice of the fist

Journal Editor Jarlath

THE RECENT SUPREME COURT ruling sustained the existing role of former Transportation and Communications Secretary Peñaranda Abaya.

A former middle manager of the airport industry, Abaya resigned to commissioner when he took over the DOTC, in wise as the rule administrative of Gloria and is come into power.

He got a special mention in the Supreme Court ruling because of a company called Wintouch. This was the company that got a multimillion-peso contract from Piatco for "demolishing and removal of subsistence structures."

In short, a war DEMOLITION.

Based on the Abaya complaint, Abaya was the main man behind Wintouch.

As employees of Wintouch narrated an affidavit, during the company's supposed to work done for him 3 to 4 in million, bro? That's a lot of money.

So much so that the employees, all of sudden, were awarded for overtime pay.

Subsequently, Abaya claimed before the Ombudsman, through a counter-affidavit, that he had nothing to do with the Wintouch employees' screaming his statement that could actually fly Abaya.

Ahh that could have been the end of it?

The 37 or so respondents, including some Germans nationals who worked for Piatco, claimed that the contract was entered in the first place. As such, whatever its provision, it was enforceable.

Thus, the Ombudsman at that time, Antonio Desierto, "finding no evidence," dismissed the case. The petitioners then asked him for reconsideration. Again, Desierto found "lack of merit."

Because of the nature of its contract with the government, Piatco could never commit a crime of any establishing monopoly in the international airports, right?

Anyway, with a valid and enforceable contract, as the respondents argued, Piatco could then set up shop in the other businesses of the airport, right?

Wrong. Well, at least according to the Supreme Court.

BASICALLY, the Supreme Court said that the Ombudsman... well, "erred."

You see, another case forced the hand of the Supreme Court to do the Mona-sian.

In May 2002, while Manila's case against the Ombudsman and those 37 or so individuals was pending, the Supreme Court made a ruling on another case involving the same people.

It declared that the contract – with all the amendments, plus the three-decision, entry "supplements" – was valid and void.

The new ruling handed down a few days ago now quoted portions of the May 2005 ruling.

For one, the members of Mona liked the case in Langston, whose rights and interests should be trampled upon by the Piatco contract.

All of these had existing businesses, secured with existing contracts with their customers on the one hand, and the government's airport authority on the other.

The earlier May 2005 ruling stated that Piatco's contract over Mona 2 should never violate the rights of other people, such as the members of Mona.

And the Supreme Court: "These contracts, those of Mona's members must be respected."

ABSENT how the Supreme Court ordered for arrest/ejection by the Office of the Ombudsman, aside from abusive, former DOTC Secretary Vicente Rivera Jr., the officials of Manila International Airport Authority Lucrecia Asuncion Gozo, Edgardo Manalo, and Diosdado Avalo), and the entire board of Piatco (such as Bernd Struck, Yu Cheng Yang, Jefferson Chang, Jason Ching, Alfred Johannes Steffens Engel, Stephan Rainhardus Jansen, Rainer Ayala, and Harbenson Khoo).

And so it's all up to the Ombudsman. But who will be next respondents for? That's for another column.

Plan to tap LGUs in VAT collection junked

Front page B1

has drawn some to the public, and to encourage his constituents.

Pedro's earlier said it was already set to sign a memorandum of understanding with the DOF on organizing LGUs to collect VAT. But it turned out that the DOF was still confirming the legality of such moves.

But the DBM said that while Pedro's proposal of deputizing LGUs to collect VAT was not possible, the national government was open open to another suggestion of the group to help address the fiscal problem.

This involves an information-sharing arrangement between the BIR and LGUs. Under this proposed arrangement, the BIR will also provide LGUs with needed data on how to them, on statements submitted by companies to help facilitate the collection of local taxes, the source said. The LGUs concerned firstly provided the BIR with taxpayers information that the latter needs in collecting taxes.

Markets closed

Front page B1

Dealers said investors also bought stocks of companies that were likely to report strong third-quarter results, while a much stronger peso provided an additional boost to sentiment.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 28.58 points Thursday to 2,931.70, the day's high and the best finish since Sep. 12 when it closed at 2,938.38. Turnover was 870.6 million shares worth P1.29 billion.

"Confidence has returned to the Philippine market," said Ben Rodrigo of Accord Capital Equities.

"Investors are hopeful the government will be able to solve its deficit problem now that the expanded VAT is being implemented," he remarked.

"The peso's rise was also a major contributor to the stock market's rally," Rodrigo said. "This means companies are likely to report more foreign exchange gains." With reports from AFP

Delay seen in Calaca plant bidding

Front page B1

placed on the auction block before end-2005 include the 600-MW Tiwi-Makban and 350-MW Isaac-Manito geothermal facilities and the decommissioned 54-MW Cebu II diesel plant and 194-MW Sabangan plant.

PSALM has so far sold six bigger plants—the hydroelectric and one coal-fired

There are the 1.1-MW Talomo plant in Davao for $1.37 million, the 1.0-MW Agusan plant in Bukidnon for $1.10 million, the 1.5-MW Bacon plant in Casiguran Sur for $400,000, the 5.4-MW Caliraya plant in Batangas for $43.0 million, the 1.2-MW Leyte plant in Bohol for $1.42 million, and the 160-MW Mindoro coal-fired plant for $661.7 million.

THE SEA yields its bounties to Filipino fishermen. The Philippines is Taiwan's 13th largest source of tuna, crustaceans and mollusks.

RP to step up exports to Taiwan

By Ramon W. Dumlao

A TRADE MISSION IS SET TO LEAVE FOR Taiwan to persuade traders there to accept more marine products from the Philippines, according to the Manila Economic and Cultural Office.

Cynthia S. Rosales, Meco trade representative, said Philippine marine products hold a significant potential as export earnings increased by a quarter in the first half of 2005 to US$11.3 million or about P628 million.

According to Rosales, the Philippines is Taiwan's 12th largest source of fresh, chilled and frozen fish, tuna, crustaceans, mollusks and other aquatic invertebrates.

It would be good policy, she said, if traders of marine products were to increase the share of total exports to Taiwan from a mere 1.21 percent.

Between 2004 and 2005, exports of fish and crustaceans to Taiwan jumped about 22 percent to the $4-million base ($7.5-million.

"Taiwan is smaller than Luzon and the island has only as much aquatic resources to support its population of 23 million," Rosales said. "Philippine producers should take advantage of our proximity to Taiwan and export more."

Also, the government has asked the United States to allow the duty-free entry of Philippine coniferous to the US market.

Commercial Counselor Romeo Bautista said he had held a previous with the Oil Trade Bureau, instrumental to include coniferous in its General System of Preferences.

A GSP is a program among developed countries to promote the economic development of poorer countries by accepting the products of the latter with zero or lower than usual tariffs.

According to the Department of Trade and Industry, Philippine exports of coniferous rose by 37 percent to $3.4 million in 2004 from $6 million in 2003.

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Asean expects mineral exports to triple to $15B

By Christine A. Dayloan

THE ECONOMIC BLOC OF THE ASSOCIation of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) expects its mineral exports to triple to as much as $15 billion over the next three to five years as global demand for minerals continue to surge amid declining production.

In 2004, mineral exports stood at $5.3 billion.

"There is so much potential for mining companies in the region," said Benjamin Philip Romualdez, president of the Samal Mining Federation. "Global demand is growing at the rate of six percent annually, with much of the increase in metal prices attributed to the fast economic growth of China and India, which are soaking up minerals from all over the world."

The federation is currently chairing a mining roundtable that will boost the region's stature in the global mining landscape.

Aside from China and India, there is also strong demand from Japan and Korea," Romualdez said in a statement. "This is happening amid strong indications of a decline in mineral production, especially from major sources such as South Africa, Chile, the United States, Australia and Canada."

Global mining revenues have been on an upsurge since 2001 as metal prices increased, resulting in total mining revenues of $110 billion in 2004.

Despite the uptick in metal prices, the issues that has not been able to take full advantage of the favorable developments. Currently, its share of the mining revenues in the world market is only five percent or $5.5 billion, data from the Philippine Chamber of Mines showed.

Single Asian currency still a long way off

By Doris C. Dumlao

ASIAN ECONOMIES ARE MOVING TOwards a unified currency, but the region has a long way to go to replicate the economic union painstakingly built in Europe, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said.

"It will require more than what has already been achieved today," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. told reporters. "It needs greater convergence of policy and policy issues, economic and financial policies."

Tetangco said it took Europe 50 years to form its economic union. But he pointed out that the variance among countries there was not as wide as that apparent in Asia.

"Regional integration is progressing," Tetangco said. "It will increase trade and investments within the region, which has expanded from the Asian crisis. These are positive developments."

The BSP chief said that while a uniform Asian currency was inevitable in the future, given the willingness among countries to intensify cooperation, it would take much more to reach that stage.

"Economic policies must respond to differences in development," he said. "Capital flows, structural changes, oil movements," Tetangco said. "It will require a lot of political will. It will require coordination of policies."

ADB president Haruhiko Kuroda recently urged Asian countries to review efforts to adopt a single currency not only to foster greater regional trade but also to shield the region from an external financial storm similar to the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

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BUSINESS

ICTSI investing $30M in Madagascar project

By Clarissa S. Batino

INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER TERMINAL Services Inc., the country's largest port operator, is investing more than $30 million (about P1.65 billion) in its project in Toamasina, Madagascar.

ICTSI subsidiary Madagascar International Container Terminal Services Ltd. will handle the concession.

Jan Mees, ICTSI senior vice president, said the company's total investment in Madagascar would be more that $30 million. This will cover the infrastructure, equipment, IT systems and human resources requirements of the Madagascar operations.

Last month, ICTSI formed a joint venture with Australia-based Anglo Ports Pty Ltd. for a A$200-million investment in prospective terminal projects such as Sydney's Port Botany, the Port of Melbourne and the Port of Fremantle in Western Australia.

The joint venture plans to reach the fourth-ahead stevedoring market current-

Expanding overseas operations, strengthening RP ventures

ly dominated by two companies, Patrick Corp. Ltd. and P&O.

"While we are willing this one [in Toamasina], we are already developing detailed plans for the long-term development of the terminal. This will necessitate additional sizable investment in all key areas," said Mees, who is responsible for the Madagascar project.

Société du Port à Gestion de Toamasina, the state port authority for Toamasina, formally handed control of the new container terminal facility to ICTSI last month.

ICTSI, controlled by Enrique Razon, said container traffic through Toamasina, which totaled 134,000 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) in 2004, should double by 2009.

The Philippine port operator said it had made investments in container handling equipment for Madagascar. These include three rubber-tired gantry cranes (RTG), two reach stackers and 17 terminal tractors acquired from Kalmar, 11 terminal trailers, 30-ton capacity forklifts, a container spreader system, and empty handling equipment.

The equipment cost about $3 million, according to ICTSI. Over the next 12 months, it would spend $5 million more to purchase additional RTGs, reach stackers, the introduction of rubber tired gantries as well as a phased equipment training program for terminal operations and maintenance staff.

ICTSI said a strong IT system was a priority for Madagascar and had invested in its bespoke gate and yard management systems as well as its container terminal billing systems.

The IT system in Madagascar will be enhanced further through the implementation of a full Terminal Operating System by the third quarter of 2006, the installation of an in-house developed productivity yard and monitoring system, and establishing direct links to customs, SMS and Tradenet.

ICTSI said that over the next two years, it would make additional investment in infrastructure, including the rehabilitation of 280 meters of quay and the strengthening of the terminal's berth G2 so as to be able to accommodate mobile harbor crane operations.

ICTSI will also rehabilitate 12 hectares of container stacking area, construct gatehouse, operations control center and administration building.

Total investments in civil works alone over the next 24 months is expected to exceed $13 million.

ICTSI said it would transform Madagascar port into a world class container terminal.

Finance wants changes in IPP industries selection rule

By Michelle V. Barro

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (DOF) will push for changes in the criteria for the selection of industries to be included in the Investment Priorities Plan (IPP), a list of preferred activities eligible for incentives.

A finance official said that for the more than three decades that the government had been granting tax and duty exemptions, many of the industry beneficiaries had not shown substantial contribution to the economy.

The official said this would be because the government had been choosing the wrong industries to support.

"This means we have to review the criteria and determine which industries should be given tax and duty incentives," the official said.

The DOF has just completed a position paper calling for changes in the criteria for the IPP once finalized, the paper is expected to be submitted to the Senate as an additional input for the deliberation of the fiscal incentives rationalization bill.

He said an additional criterion in selecting industries to be included in the IPP list was the use of high technology or the employment of a pioneer technology. The official said the government could tone up such criteria that could help achieve the goal of promoting economic activity.

The suggested criteria include the number of workers employed, the volume of production and the amount of investments.

"The criteria should be easily quantifiable and monitored, and verifiable," the official said.

The board of Investments (BOI) was tasked to identify industries to be included in the IPP list. The list is to be updated yearly.

Included in the 2005 IPP list are: Agribusiness, healthcare and wellness products and services, information and communication technology, electronics, power utilities production, energy, infrastructure, tourism, shipbuilding/shipping, jewelry and fashion garments.

The fiscal incentives rationalization bill, one of the items administration's proposed measures to address the country's fiscal problem, seeks to reduce the number of tax perks granted to businesses. This is to bring potential revenue losses of the government arising from the granting of tax and duty exemptions.

Integrated power sector plan pushed

By Abigail L. Ho

THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT Bank is recommending the adoption of a comprehensive and integrated Power Sector Development Program (PSDP) that will address the critical challenges facing the industry.

ADB principal energy specialist Yongping Zhai said the sector's financial viability would have to be restored, its regulatory performance improved and investor confidence in it enhanced to ensure the successful restructuring of the industry.

To address these challenges, he said there had to be a "comprehensive and integrated PSDP approach that combines a policy-based program (Sector) with an investment project and guarantee facilities."

The ADB said the PSDP should focus on five key areas: financial viability of the power sector, regulatory framework and performance, wholesale restructuring toward competition, private participation in power generation and transmission and continued participation.

Its components are: A policy-based lending to cover restructuring cost, investment loans, partial credit guarantee for the refinancing of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.'s debts, partial credit guarantee for electricity market trading, and political risk guarantee for private investments in power generation and transmission and continued participation.

Zhai said the proposed PSDP would be structured by monitoring specific outputs that were considered critical in the successful restructuring of the country's power sector.

These include the elimination of National Power Corp.'s debts and the establishment of creditworthiness of TRANSCO and the electric cooperatives.

The public's confidence in the Energy Regulatory Commission's impartiality and independence should also be strengthened.

LRTA needs $5M to settle issues over junked contract

THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT AUTHORITY is asking the budget department for a $5-million (about P275 million) allocation so it can settle its obligations with Canadian firm SNC Lavalin over a canceled deal on LRT Line 1 extension.

LRTA administrator Mel Robles said the agency had junked the unsolicited proposal of SNC Lavalin on the advice of International Finance Corp. to build a building for the project to get better offers.

The World Bank-arm believed the unsolicited offer of SNC Lavalin was "expensive," according to the LRTA.

"We have asked the DBM to provide us with a budget so we can pay SNC Lavalin the balance of $5 million being claimed [by SNC Lavalin]," said Robles in an interview.

The government had already paid $3 million of the $10 million which, it believed, was spent in the preparation of the project's feasibility study and development plans. The Canadian firm, however, claimed it spent $20 million for the feasibility study.

Robles said that aside from being "expensive," the Canadian firm also sought a government guarantee on the project, which made its offer even more disadvantageous.

The LRTA is committing with the JFC on the extension of LRT Line 1 to Cavite.

This $667-million, 12-kilometer extension in Bacoor, Cavite is one of the priority projects of the Arroyo administration and is supposed to be completed by 2009.

The government received the unsolicited offer of SNC Lavalin more than five years ago but the project could not proceed because of doubts as to whether the Canadian firm's offer was raised from the government's fiscal and financial perspective.

SNC Lavalin also threatened to walk out from the project because of the delays but somehow it was appeased by assurances from the government that the project would push through.

The Canadian firm offered to build the railway for more than P19 million per kilometer, according to Robles.

The first phase of the LRTA Line 1 extension will lengthen the railway up to Baroso in Cavite, with a projected ridership of 400,000 passengers daily.

It may later be extended further to Imus Public Market and then to Tanza-Noic, also in Cavite. LRT Line 1 carries an average of 350,000 passengers a day.

The extension would make LRT Line 1 the most visible among the mass railway projects, said Robles.

The LRT Line 1 extension would ease the bottleneck in Bacoor. This could complement the Coastal Road project to run from Bacoor to Kawit and Noveleta. — Clarissa S. Batino

HolidayCountdown

50 days 'til Super! X-mas

Super

Futura

Super! Halloween Costume Parade page C2

Madonna looks into the future page B1

Shu Uemura holds artists auction on Nov. 9 page B3

Claudine Barretto dons F&H holiday line page C4

Produced by TIM DIZ
Photographs by KELLY MAW
Styling Coordinator
ARNOLD CABALLERO
assisting PUFF QUIMPANG
at Embassy Super Club

ROYAL TOP GUNS Jon Rivera, a lover of thrills and birthday boy Zul tussle for pizza with KC Montano

FUTURE DIPLOMAT Erika Cacal in male anime role

Au PAIR PAI QUERADE Michelle Pemberton and Rang Zubiaga

CEO CHICKS CLARA Victor Wee's KC and Tina Montano with mom Cynthia Gandiaco

JACKIE AND THE FLINTSTONE FACTORY Jackie Perdon Cobb del Mar and PP Rodrigues

The Effects of gamma rays on man-in-the-moon Marigolds

CROSS EXAMINATION Sassy chef-owners Rachel and Rama Alejandro

LA VIDA LOCA Eric and Anita enjoy some tango

GORILLA PEACE Rene an Embassy Ehrens and Gerega are friends

ORGASMIC JOE Dyan Jakould as himself

NINJAPIN Ed Paul Mac always gets the girls

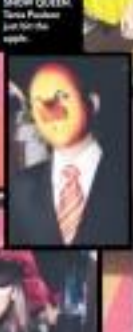
SCHOOL SCHMOOZE Kjerstin Gaerlan and Stephen Ko

COWBOY CRAZY Pauline Lopez expresses to Tina Herrera

ONE NIGHT GIGGLE Bernida Lloyd strutted a la Studio 54

RUBBER'S SOUL Elvis Cadness and Sal Klenny

SNOW QUEEN Tania Puskas just has the apple



Photos by Eddie Boy Escudero and Willy Sao

IT'S BACK TO THE FUTURE, GUYS AND dolls. Lately, I've been on an upward spiral search for answers to questions pertaining to conscience.

Do... I know. Another short feature* has been gouged and replaced, mapped out, pointed, filmed, printed, postvideo even both and answered haiku does you can say. The process.

The course is not just about your conscience with Tim; with new weapons and tactics arises. The future is actually going with anime clocks are with new weapons. What's your latest mobile phone? Junk to can smash our home, or counter us to our Chris, and to toss, post or text Tomorrow.

Great Space Coaster

This obsession for Tomorrow was the inspiration for Embassy Suites Clark's "Great Space Coaster" Halloween bash where we asked the area's participation to come up with one of their favorite Tomorrow characters and dress up as one. Anyone's Poe.

The "Great Space Coaster" winner of Sean Ong Pop Machine, my newest (And best) dark subculture. I've gotten into the habit of dressing up as my bubble homeless – it's the perfect costume as no one, I mean no one, will fuck (optional) "Re-educate and Rewash!"

I went as Bruce Banner's mom (a big show out to Mexicali Rock Pendelton!) who thinks the hole company (Host, Enrico and Hollywood) is out to get her (responsible for the special events, I mean not Halloween is my big night. I find like Santa Claus during Halloween. It's the best time to really get into your freakiness and join the.

As Tomorrow's VIP participants dropped Tomorrow Capitol and tables that had won open prizes from DKNY watches. They assisted in an open up security gate and guidance.

Tim Yap

headed man, tentacles, blue-tailored mothers, masked men, pistols and gunmoats. One guy even came in pajamas and an array of tablet and women around him, his favorite was the inebriated porter lurar who even had a guide as an act to fall over, and oh man, 1400m the three up and I bet was sweet around for the guys and girls all night long.

People are in costumes were carried away by Aida Atkinson, Embassy's resident diva! Yeah, the if I were you, I would always bring an extra costume in the car... just in case. They come in many like costumes and creative outfits.

Fantastic future

After the post-Halloween break got the bee on fantastic wings on energy. Now, we have to hold on our hopes for stuff like new rockets from all over the world. Me personal researching my evaluation process, age in human being to exploration's plus random investigations and customer-ers, off more than Land of the Rings, glowing earth bones), were my high school-hysterical.

All of those things made me look back and say like... a life that has always been an interesting speed, after 1999, new changes. I've also prized myself with the realization that I have done a lot of things and also bought a lot of things, good and bad, leading to all the choices I've made in my life. I've made a commitment to those the things I don't need and fix the imperfect, the not-enticing, when does explode inverted pieces of my existence.

So after looking back, what do we do? Look forward, young man. A colleague said to me in January 2005 to start planning for how this year takes precedence so, this year all just flowing along, waiting for things to happen, but I will guess that we should look at it as a springboard for new experiences, for change, and growth.

Before this star ends it's about that you should, we should all endeavor so be able to start with a new chapter, a new book, a new page, a new paragraph, a new sentence. Continue it to meet new lands, new lives as we traverse your future.

"You know you're in the right place, girl," said Terence C. Carr.

This is the future. The tomorrow.

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Holiday . . . Celebrate!

NOW THAT HALLOween's over and everyone's costumes have found their way back to the closet/attic/basement/storage shop, it's time to focus on the future.

And the future is Christmas.

If you find yourself wondering about your holiday wardrobe, Bridal & Wing has ideas for you.

Their new line Folded & Hung Luxe gives 2005's casual urban style a dose of elegance. The pieces exist in multi-tones—browns, greens, blacks and grays—and soothing colors—neons, turquoise, blue, lavender and white. And the fabrics are soft and luxurious—silk fur, suede, velvet and suede.

Are you or her women include chiffon tops with satin details, ruffled skirts, figure-flattering wraps, a Chinoiserie green bustier jacket with some piping, trench coats in rich patterns and suede skirts with lace.

Also on update their wardrobes with trends shirts with satin pleats, slim long sleeved shirts with collar and cuff details and classic flat front pants made from lightweight material which will look fresh at work and at parties.

And if accessories are your thing, add a dash of bling to your outfit with Folded and Hung's accessories.

But if you still want to wear your Halloween costume to your Christmas dinner, that's totally up to you.

Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenco-Dario

Impossible Dream

THE MUCH-ANTICIPATED MAN OF LA MANCHA REVIVAL off its month-long run on Friday, Nov. 11 at Rajo's Globe Theater at Greenbelt 3 in Makati.

This is a tribute to the late Zenaida Yñiguez Amador. Organized as a Quixotic endeavor, she transformed a fledgling amateur troupe into one of the country's most successful theater companies, Repertory Philippines.

Based on Miguel de Cervantes' classic novel written centuries ago, this musical has inspired people of many generations to pursue that impossible dream. Playing the role of Cervantes/Don Quixote is Michael William. Audie Gemora and Maestro Lucchesini/Padre reprise the roles that Peter O'Toole and Stephen Lowe made famous on film in the '70s. Call Rep at 887-47-10 or Ticketworld at 891-9999.

The Brass Monkeys @ Wasabi, Nov. 5 & 12

Still reeling from the abrupt departure of Michael Bublé and the small fish he's big band around? Head over to Planter's Olympia Building, 70 [1] Makati Ave., Makati, phone: 840-4205] this evening and catch the one-swing members of one of the country's best live performers, The Brass Monkeys. Be blasted—literally—to the jazz/ bossing orchestra. We cool rum and spoiling pomade-styled 'dos, the popular band's rocking jazz repertoire will easily transport you to a Technicolor land of dancy couples lounging in cigarette-filled night haunts, enjoying the sweet sound of brass and swing.

Deep Blue @ Greenbelt 3 Cinemas, Nov. 9 - 17

The ocean: the final frontier. These are the voyages of the "Deep Blue" filmmakers, their five-year mission: to explore strange aquatic worlds, to seek out new life and new species, to boldly go where no man—and no camera!—has gone before. Those of you suffering from a bad case of hydrophobia now have a chance to cast wellfightening aboard the mighty factory schools of sharks, discover swaying waves with killer whales, and plunge into pitch black dramas that are home to...gasp!...wild, alien-like creatures. WWF Philippines screens this jaw-dropping documentary from Nov 9 to 17 at the Greenbelt 3 Cinemas. For tickets, call 920-7722 or visit the IWWF Booth Booth at 2nd Level of Greenbelt 3.

Christian Bautista: Heartfelt @ Music Museum, Nov. 11 & 12

Five years ago, if a dubious fortune teller predicted that a young boy from Imus, Cavite would abandon his impending Landscape Architecture career, fearlessly launch himself as a romantic balladeer, and eventually win hearts in the "Star in a Million" and "Pinoy Idol" playbook, would you have believed her? Probably not, but you should have! This weekend, homegrown singing sensation Christian Bautista celebrates his 24th birthday with two thanksgiving concerts of love songs at the Music Museum. "Heartfelt," he says, "will be all about the fans." Aurora. Call 891-9999 or 725-4726.

Red Revolution with Caroline & DJ Air @ Metrowalk, Nov. 11

No, ketchup lovers are not conspiring a coup and taking over the country. But they will have quite a bonanza this coming Friday each scene seniors Caroline and Dj Air perform at the Sun Vision Red Revolution" in Metrowalk, which from the 60-dozen organic foods if Feb. food, and games for all you ketchup crazy fans. For a chance to win some of the prizes at stake, let tell be the color of your scrunchie and "festive" your hairdo. The party spills over to Hyde Dance Cebu on Nov. 18 and to Venue, Davao City on Dec. 3. Visit www.hyde.com for details.

Other Super! 24/7 events:

Nov. 5, Saturday

Disco Skeletons Night with Bridge at 'Tila Bistro. Reggae Jazz Fest with Mishka Adams at Sunbeam (Bel) Supermarket, Bilimoli. Electric Solidarity, & Shoulder Stars at Saguijo. Supermodel Saturdays at Embassy Club Soundproof City at Embassy Cubao, Cachet@Opus Abaya at Makati. DJ Incubation & Blue at Prince of Jaipur. Pro-grooves House with Pop Chatbox at Bed

Nov. 6, Sunday

Mickey Adams & Johnny Abegan Ready at Mandarin Oriental, Starbucks@Tech Youth, Music, Film at The Podium Cinema 5, Sunday Jazz Brunch at Peninsula Lounge, Sugar from Desserts & Ice Cream at Peninsula Manila Lobby

Nov. 7, Monday

Soul Seduction at Absinth Sweatpea at Tavern on the Square. I Don't Like Mondays! with DJ Ric at Garden Makati.

Nov. 8, Tuesday

Barfly Atmatic, Showbiz, Jazzat, Dr.Dz Groove, & Jam Session Club at Dusk. Kraftwerk Tuesdays at Manila DJ Club. Mishka Adams at 70s Room, Jazzat with DJ Kinnosuke at Absinth, Sessions at Cafe Havana Greenbelt Cocktail at Cafe at Tomatoes Bar Makeover, 1999 Smut, Mighty Real Bistro, Forgetting Lust, & Today Like We Other at Saguijo

Nov. 9, Wednesday

Vixen Wednesdays with Cat Balanga & Superfly's Red Dj at Embassy Cubao, Ashley+Ice & Mary Miranda at Embassy Club 1970 with DJ Jaime McCrorie at Absinth, Cocktail at Cafe at Tomatoes Bar Makeover, Agua Agua at Dusk, Executive Blues, & Pancevia at Saguijo

Nov. 10, Thursday

Fine Thursdays at Manila DJ Club. Monkeyspank, Soundtrip, Jimmy Fabulous, & Naked Tongue at Saguijo. BEDM with DJ Patch at Absinth. Soundtrip DJ Throwdown with Dave Showcase at Bed

Nov. 11, Friday

Date Rape, Blue Jean Junkies, & Spy at Saguijo. MBK's Wonderwired with Rhonda Davis at Bikini. Superfly DJs at Bistro, La Bella with Cat Lygas City at Manila's Musk at Embassy Club Cocktail at Cafe at Embassy Cubao, Dave Pinkys with DJ Patch at Absinth, Friday Night Fever at Dusk. The Jerks at "Nicolette's Fat Tuesday at Sunset on the Square. DJ Kinoshima K.K. Kinosuke at Prince of Jaipur

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2007 for Globe and 289 for Smart. Log on to www.mag24.7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Insomnia! Therapist at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to e-mail address events@mag24.7.com.mailto:mag24_7@yahoo.com.